



LATE TESTIMONY

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097**

January 28, 2008

TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

HOUSE BILL NO. 2428, RELATING TO HIGHWAYS.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

We support this bill. In fact, the Department of Transportation (DOT) has proposed a very similar bill in H.B. No. 3200, Relating to the Exemption of State Highway Projects from the County Subdivision Approval Process.

In our efforts to speed up project delivery and save time and money, we have looked to other States for ideas. One interesting idea that consistently came up was that other States did not need to go through a County Subdivision Approval process for their highway projects.

By contrast, our current highway project delivery process involves long range planning processes, prolonged environmental studies, public notice and input, and legislative approvals for both the concept and the budget for each of our highway projects. The current County Subdivision application process requires the State Highways Division to apply for each subdivision taking, pay a fee for each application, require unnecessary tax clearances, respond to numerous reviewing agencies, and require the owners to sign off on subdivision applications before negotiations are completed. The Counties have also increased their requirements for subdivision maps from originally filing the State Right-of-Way subdivision maps to a more comprehensive and separate subdivision map for each owner. We believe that the County Subdivision Approval process is duplicative and not necessary because other review and approval requirements are in place. As an example, the Counties currently have an opportunity to comment on our highway projects through the Environmental Assessment process.

With a faster County Subdivision Approval process, the DOT will be able to provide the infrastructure in a timelier manner and our State projects will have less risk of lapsing state and federal funds. In addition, this bill will relieve the Counties of a long and tedious review process and free up County employees to do other important matters. By passing this bill, the Legislature will make both the DOT and the Counties more efficient in their use of valuable staff time. This will, in turn, result in a greater benefit to the public.

Thank you for this opportunity to discuss this matter with you.

Council Chair
G. Riki Hokama

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Jo Anne Johnson
Bill Kauakea Medeiros
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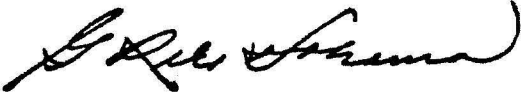
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January 26, 2008

LATE TESTIMONY

TO: Honorable Joseph M. Souki, Chair
House Committee on Transportation

FROM: G. Riki Hokama
Council Chair 

DATE: January 28, 2008

SUBJECT: **OPPOSITION TO HB 2428, RELATING TO HIGHWAYS**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to exempt State highway projects from county subdivision approvals regarding highway projects that involve acquisitions.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I oppose this measure for the following reasons:

1. The Maui County Code places numerous restrictions and guidelines on subdivisions for the purpose of ensuring that the subdivisions conform with the county general plan and community plans, and to protect public safety. In particular, when planning streets, a subdivider is required to consider their relation to existing and proposed streets, to topographical conditions, to public convenience and safety, and to the proposed use of land to be served by such streets.
2. To exempt highway projects from county subdivision approvals would foster neighborhoods and communities with non-conforming roadways that could be hazardous to the residents.
3. The State, not being familiar with the concerns addressed when the Code restrictions on subdivisions were enacted, may not have the same safeguards in place to protect the health, safety, and general welfare of the community.

For the foregoing reasons, I oppose this measure.

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