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IN REPLY REFER TO:

January 25, 2008

TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Before the House Committee on Transportation

On H.B. No. 2524, Relating to Transportation.

The State Department of Transportation (DOT) supports this bill.

The consultation of county transportation officials and compliance with county general and transportation-related plans are primary components of DOT's long-range transportation master planning projects. The DOT will continue this practice in its upcoming undertaking of the "Statewide Transportation Plan – Hawaii's Multi-Modal Network."

The DOT has requested U.S. DOT Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) funding for the "Statewide Transportation Plan." FHWA approval and funding of this project is anticipated in the next 45-90 days. County transportation, planning and public works departments will be shortly contacted and invited to participate in this pivotal project.

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND PERMITTING
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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January 28, 2008

The Honorable Joseph M. Souki, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Transportation
State House of Representatives
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Souki: and Members:

**Subject: House Bill No. 2524
Relating to Transportation**

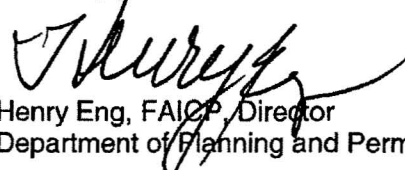
The Department of Planning and Permitting **supports** House Bill 2524, which requires the Statewide Transportation Council to comply with relevant county plans as it prepares the statewide transportation plan.

While the City and County of Honolulu has the Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization (OMPO) to serve as the conduit for coordinated state transportation planning and county land use planning, we believe the addition of this requirement is appropriate under Chapter 279A, HRS.

We thank Rep Sharon Har for her leadership in the Smart Growth Task Force, and the recommendations that resulted, including House Bill 2524.

Please adopt House Bill 2524.

Sincerely yours,



Henry Eng, FAICP, Director
Department of Planning and Permitting

HE: jfm
Hb2524-kh.doc



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January 25, 2008

The Honorable Joseph M. Souki, Chair
House Committee on Transportation
State Capitol, Room 309
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: H.B. 2524 Relating to Transportation
Hearing Date: January 28, 2008 @ 9:00 a.m., Room 309

On behalf of our 10,000 members in Hawaii, the Hawaii Association of REALTORS® (HAR) supports the intent of H.B. 2524.

HAR served on the Interim Task Force on Smart Growth created pursuant to HR 259, Regular Session of 2007 and was very pleased with the high level of cooperation and discussion that occurred at all of the meetings. H.B. 2524 is one of the proposals recommended by the task force as a means to ensure that the State does not inadvertently interfere with the counties' current efforts to implement smart growth and to approach transportation in a coordinated manner. A comprehensive statewide transportation plan that considers and takes into account the needs of our counties is an absolute necessity.

The real estate market is coming back to urban core neighborhoods and suburban town centers all across the United States. The market has opened a window of opportunity to make our cities more sustainable environmentally and economically. Transit can become the armature for new development, with modes of walkable, higher-density, mixed-use, mixed-income development around transit stations. This has the added and significant benefit of allowing communities to redevelop to accommodate more growth at the same time that we preserve existing single-family neighborhoods.

Couple this with the scattered locations of homes, jobs and other activities and the enormous gains in efficiency provided by private transportation, it is highly unlikely that traditional forms of public transportation [buses] will supplant private transportation in any significant way. Hawaii is looking to maintain or increase mobility for all citizens. This will involve major changes to our current transportation system that we have clearly outgrown.

We would like to suggest that transit-oriented development opportunities as it relates to affordable housing is a key component to include in the state's transportation plan. A proactive strategy with the State and Counties working together can serve as a means to address the housing needs of the people of Hawaii for a mix of incomes.



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HAR looks forward to working with our state lawmakers in building better communities by supporting quality growth, seeking sustainable economies and housing opportunities, embracing the cultural and environmental qualities we cherish, and protecting the rights of property owners.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.