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GOVERNOR



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IN REPLY REFER TO:

February 11, 2008

TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

HOUSE BILL NO. 2524

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, OCEAN RESOURCES & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

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

Consultation with 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 for this project is anticipated within the next 45-90 days. County transportation, planning, and public works departments will be contacted shortly thereafter and invited to participate in this pivotal project.

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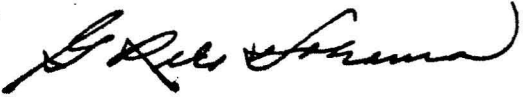


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February 8, 2008

TO: Honorable Ken Ito, Chair
House Committee on Water, Land, Ocean Resources & Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: G. Riki Hokama
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 11, 2008; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
HB 2524, RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to require the Statewide Transportation Council to comply with county transportation and general plans, to the extent it does not impact Federal funds, in the preparation of the statewide transportation plan for projected transportation needs for a six-year period.

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 support this measure for the following reasons:

1. Requiring the State transportation plan to comply with county transportation and general plans will ensure consistency between the plans. It will also eliminate the potential for conflict with county plans when the State transportation plan is implemented.
2. The measure will ensure that the transportation needs of Maui County residents will be addressed in the State transportation plan.
3. Providing consistency between the State transportation plan and county plans will allow for more effective transportation systems that will better meet the transportation needs of Maui County residents.

For the foregoing reasons, I support this measure.



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February 8, 2008

The Honorable Ken Ito, Chair
House Committee on Water, Land,
Ocean Resources & Hawaiian Affairs
State Capitol, Room 312
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: H.B. 2524 Relating to Transportation
Hearing Date: February 11, 2008 @ 9:30 a.m., Room 312

Dear Chair Ito and members of the House Committee on Water, Land, Ocean Resources & Hawaiian Affairs:

On behalf of our 10,000 members in Hawaii, the Hawaii Association of REALTORS® (HAR) supports the intent of H.B. 2524 which is to coordinate the state's transportation plan with county planning.

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.

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. Hawaii has the opportunity to create a variety of modes of walkable, higher-density, mixed-use, mixed-income development. Such planning 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. This will involve adjusting our current planning system, a system that is not meeting our needs.

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.