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HB 2524
RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION

House Committee on Water, Land, Ocean Resources and Hawaiian Affairs
Public Hearing – February 15, 2008
11:00 a.m., State Capitol, Conference Room 312

By
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Peter Rappa, Environmental Center

HB 2524 requires 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. Our statement on this measure does not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

State transportation plans were required beginning in 1978. We assume the plan called for in section 279A-2 HRS was submitted and adopted. This section now primarily guides the updates to the plan. We suggest that the reference to the 1978 plan be deleted from this section. It falsely gives the impression to some that the Legislature is still awaiting the completion of the plan.

The bill acknowledges that the updates of the statewide transportation plan should comply with the transportation and other plans prepared by each county. Each county has developed a set of plans and/or guidelines that guide road development on their island(s) which should be reflected in the statewide plan. The Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization (OMPO), for example, has a 30-year Oahu Regional Transportation Plan (ORTP) for the City and County of Honolulu. It can be found at OMPO's web site (www.oahumpo.org/ortp/index.html). The ORTP is based on the strategic plan concepts that (a) projects population and economic growth on Oahu by 2030; (b) describes growth in travel demand; (c) identifies locations of significant congestion during peak morning periods; (d) identifies potential transportation improvement projects to address these problems; (e) describes four strategic plan concepts for the future; and (f) offers a brief summary and evaluation which should be reflected in the statewide plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.