

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



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IN REPLY REFER TO:

February 13, 2008

TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

HOUSE BILL NO. 2917, H.D.1

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

The Department of Transportation (DOT) supports the intent of this bill, which is to allow a vessel having a Kewalo Basin use permit to moor in Honolulu Harbor at no additional cost due to inclement weather; and while docking, to unload its commercial fishing catch to a business operating within Honolulu Harbor or to otherwise conduct business. HD1 further allows a vessel with a Honolulu Harbor use permit to also moor at Kewalo Basin, subject to the discretion of the harbor manager. Vessels that are authorized for entry must be current in their payments to the State.

To avoid ambiguity, we recommend that the bill be amended to clarify that only commercial fishing vessels will be provided with reciprocal benefits of entry. We further point out that the disposition of the management of Kewalo Basin's submerged lands is currently undecided and the DOT may not have the authority to "allow" vessels with a Honolulu Harbor use permit into Kewalo Basin, as intended by the proposed legislation.

nishimoto2-Bryce

From: rhardlydavison@aol.com
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2008 3:43 PM
To: TRNtestimony
Subject: Please support HB (2917 / HD 1)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Hi, My name is Richard Davison and I have worked as a Licensed Vessel Master (Captain) on Oahu for over 20 Years.

It is my opinion that although HB NO. 2917HD 1 is a step in the right direction, the The Vessel Captains need to be able to make the decision to divert without waiting for the harbor to officially "close".

For Instance, in SECTION 2 Instead of "The manager of Kewalo basin prohibits entrance into Kewalo basin because of inclement weather or ocean conditions" change to: **CONDITIONS OF THE HARBOR PROHIBIT SAFE ENTRANCE...**

This will allow the Vessel Captains to make the decision to divert to Honolulu Harbor when they deem it unsafe to moor at Kewalo. **This is important** because it speeds the decision (read:Safety) tremendously since the ships Master won't have to to wait for the harbor personnel to "close" the harbor. Remember that vessels are operating in the harbors 24 hours a day, seven days a week, including Christmas. Even while Harbor Personnel are off duty.

Please support HB (2917 / HD 1)

Thank You,

Captain R. Davison
41-585 Poalima Street
Waimanalo, Hawaii

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nishimoto2-Bryce

From: RawcoHI@cs.com
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2008 8:59 AM
To: TRNtestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of HB~~2748~~²⁹¹⁷ HD! with modifications of language.

House Committee on Transportation
Room 309 at 0925 on Wednesday, 13 February 2008

Chair Souki and Respected Members of the Committee;

My name is Reg White. I have been operating passenger vessels and ocean going tugs out of Kewalo Basin for the past 35 years. This basin is very subject to weather conditions along the south shore of Oahu. When we have Kona storms kick up, the entrance channel rapidly becomes unsafe for passenger service and later for any vessels to transit. The conditions at many of the wharves in the basin become unusable without risk of passenger or crew injury and/or damage to the vessels or the piers in the harbor. This decision must be made at the time that these conditions come up. This is not always between 0730 to 1630 Monday through Friday except holidays. This can be at any hour of any day. It is therefore important that Section 1 (1) be further modified to allow the judgement of the master of the vessel to declare the conditions unsafe for entrance or to conduct operations alongside when these condition come up outside of normal office hours for the harbor agent.

Please support this bill and it's HD1, modified to make it work at all hours of all days.

Thankyou sincerely,

Reg White
Vice president, project development
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2/10/2008