



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

February 11, 2008

**TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2951**

**COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION**

We oppose this bill, as we believe it is unnecessary.

With limited funds and resources, the Department of Transportation (DOT) addresses congestion, maintenance and safety through priorities identified in the long range, mid-range and short-range transportation plans. The goals and requirements of this bill are not achievable with current resources and funds. It is not a realistic objective to improve congestion for 10 miles of freeway per year with current resources and funding.

There appears to be conflicts within the bill. While the legislation requests that high occupancy tolls be considered, no lanes currently operating without tolls can be converted to tolling or road pricing.

Many of the requirements in maintenance, traffic flow and safety are dependent on funding and/or participation by others. Especially in the area of safety, the DOT has launched the Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP), which incorporates the 5-E's of safety. These 5-E's are engineering, enforcement, education, emergency services, and everyone else. The DOT alone cannot achieve the proposed safety and operational goals without the full cooperation and commitment of the 5-E's and significantly more funding than we currently generate in revenues.

The DOT is not the coordinator for emergency preparedness. The DOT defers this effort to the Hawaii State Civil Defense and county civil defense agencies.

Finally, the College of Engineering at the University of Hawaii, Manoa already has the opportunity to apply for research funds managed by the DOT through a competitive grant process. If the civil engineering department would like funds to establish transportation research, its professors should apply and compete with the other applicants for the limited grant funds. The Department does not only deal with transportation engineering, but relies heavily on the various civil engineering disciplines for our highway program such as structural, geotechnical, environmental and hydraulic engineering.

**nishimoto2-Bryce**

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**From:** tom heung [kmheung@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 09, 2008 8:49 AM  
**To:** TRNtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 2951

Rep. Joseph M.Souki, Chairman  
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chairman  
Committee on Transportation

Testimony of Tom Heung, President, City TAXI\_Inc  
In Strong Support of HB 2951relating to Transportation  
TRN hearing Monday, Feb 11, 2008 at 9 am House Cf Rm. 309

Systematic and defined programs to properly monitor the conditions and performance of Hawaii's highway infrastructure is badly needed.

The cost of postponing proper maintenance and upkeep multiplies significantly.

Preserving the highway infrastructure is a fundamental government responsibility, to enhance the productivity and efficiency of business and commerce and the quality of life and working conditions for the people.

Utilizing the assets and resources of the University of Hawaii and the higher education system to address our local needs would be a worthwhile investment with potential to encourage students to pursue engineering and to make a positive contribution to the community in transportation.

We therefore strongly urge passage of Bill 2951 to address the needs for better roads and highways in Hawaii.

Regards  
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