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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. 3004

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

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

In cooperation with the Department of Transportation (DOT) and affected county agencies, the Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization, periodically updates and adopts a long-range land transportation plan for Oahu. In cooperation with affected county agencies, the DOT periodically updates and adopts a long-range land transportation plan for each of the other counties. The primary purpose of these transportation plans is to evaluate future needs and then set financially constrained priorities for additional highway lanes and transit improvements in specific corridors.

To the extent that DOT resources permits, we undertake corridor studies to determine rights-of-way for State highway capacity projects proposed in adopted long-range land transportation plans. However, we lack the funding and do not think it is appropriate for the Legislature to require the DOT to identify all possible rights-of-way regardless of feasibility.

## HB3004 RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION

FEBRUARY 11, 2008 9:00 A.M. ROOM 309

ATTENTION: HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE  
CHAIR JOSEPH SOUKI; VICE CHAIR SCOTT NISHIMOTO  
AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

### IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB3004 by Tom Berg

Please accept this testimony in strong support of HB3004 that would instruct the Department of Transportation (DOT) to at least on paper, "Get back into the highway building business."

Per the Department of Budget and Finance Budget, Program Planning and Management Division's Program Memoranda submitted to the Twenty-Fourth State Legislature, January 2007, on page 03-27 it reads:

#### HIGHWAYS

*The Highways Division has moved toward using various alternatives in lieu of building more highways.*

My interpretation of the aforementioned statement above is that this means that instead of improving the plight of the motoring public, the Governor's Administration has rather sought to get the motoring public out of their cars and onto bicycles to meet our transportation needs. If one does not have a bicycle, then the DOT would rather than build more roads, have the motoring public forfeit their cars if they want to avoid traffic congestion and find a way to use their own human power to get to work if not employing mass transit to do so. The DOT should be held to task for providing the motoring public with options that would accommodate additional routes to avoid traffic jams, accidents, and other mishaps that often cripples our travels. **HB3004** provides for this.

The DOT is doing nothing to plan, design, and build an expressway (outside of the Nimitz Fly-Over) to meet the demands of today's motoring public and prepare for the future where cars will no longer emit carbon waste but run clean and green. The Governor's Administration has taken the position that the building of additional lane miles to be constructed at a pace that would parallel population growth and satisfy the majority's demand for more freeways should not be pursued. Furthermore, the DOT and Governor have taken the position that the motoring public's level of service on the H-1 Freeway should remain at a level of service "F" and not be improved by building either an elevated reversible express lane or tunnel through Pearl Harbor. If this were not a truthful statement, then where is the monetary request for such in the Governor's Executive Supplemental Budget for Fiscal Year 2009?

A proposed \$175 million afternoon contra flow/zipper lane to the H-1 Freeway being planned for is not adding lane capacity, but merely shifting lanes that takes away more lanes than it offers...try going west on the H-1 Freeway in the mornings when the zipper lane is open, it's a nightmare getting to Kapolei from Central Oahu....zippers are not a solution for the future, building another expressway is. Knowing where to place expressways/highways or freeways should be a priority and the public should have the opportunity to know about it. **HB3004** will do just that.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and request passage of **HB3004**.

Tom Berg/91-203 Hanapouli Circle/Ewa Beach, Hawaii 96706