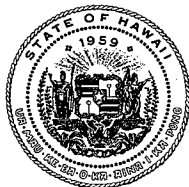


LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



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IN REPLY REFER TO:

March 10, 2008

TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

HOUSE BILL NO. 3197

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

We support this administration bill. The additional sum of \$21,253,032 for fiscal year 2007-2008 is required to allow the Department of Transportation (DOT) to continue to operate and maintain the state highway system. The current operational requirements exceed the current appropriations for fiscal year 2007-2008.

During the 2007 regular legislative session, the legislature increased the revenues deposited into the state highway fund, by approximately \$21,200,000 for fiscal year 2007-2008, by extending the \$3 per day rental vehicle surcharge tax and increasing the fuel tax on gasoline and diesel oil by \$.01 per gallon. While the legislature increased the revenues, the authority to expend monies was not provided. We are requesting to have the authority to spend the appropriations to supplement our current maintenance levels.

March 10, 2008

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
ON HB 3197 RELATING TO
MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION FOR THE STATE HIGHWAY SYSTEM**

Thank you Chair English and committee members. I am Gareth Sakakida, Managing Director of the Hawaii Transportation Association (HTA) which has 360 transportation related members throughout the state of Hawaii.

Hawaii Transportation Association strongly supports this bill.

Our transportation infrastructure is key to our standard of living in Hawaii and key to the commercial transportation industry's ability to maintain that standard of living. Our timely deliveries provide Hawaii's citizens with everything they consume, and the only way we can accomplish that is to have a safe and well maintained infrastructure.

That infrastructure also needs vast improvements if we are to keep up our service levels into the future. The State Department of Transportation's highway revenue fund is in dire need of enhancement.

The funds provided by this measure is sorely needed.

Thank you.