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

IN REPLY REFER TO:

March 10, 2008

TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

SENATE BILL NO. 2156, S.D.1

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

The Department of Transportation (DOT) supports the intent of this bill, but has concerns that the appropriation needed to implement this bill may adversely impact the priorities established in the Executive Supplemental Budget. The DOT is also concerned that we may not be the most appropriate agency for this undertaking.

The primary responsibility for emergency access and response planning rests more appropriately with the Counties. County agencies have the authority and local expertise that are more suited to accomplishing the goals set out in this bill. From the DOT's perspective, transportation facilities are only one component of a comprehensive emergency access plan and we recognize that multi-agency coordination is essential. The DOT is more than willing to play a significant role and assist in the plan development process. But we believe that the County is more appropriate as the lead for this effort.

HAWAII BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL, AFL-CIO
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March 9, 2008

LATE

Honorable Representative Joseph M. Souki, Chair
Honorable Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Transportation
Hawaii State Capital
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: IN SUPPORT OF SB 2156, SD1
RELATING TO THE WEST MAUI TRANSPORTATION ACCESS PLAN
Hearing: Monday, March 10, 2008, 10:00 a.m.

Dear Chair Souki, Vice Chair Nishimoto and the Committee on Transportation:

For the Record my name is Buzz Hong the Executive Director for the Hawaii Building & Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO. Our Council is comprised of 16-construction unions and a membership of 26,000 statewide.

The Council supports the passage of SB2156, SD1, which creates an informal, temporary West Maui transportation access plan working group to develop a West Maui transportation access plan. Allows hiring of a consultant without regard to the Hawaii procurement code to develop the plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of SB2156.

Sincerely,

William "Buzz" Hong
Executive Director

WBH/dg