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March 10, 2008

TO: Representative Joseph M. Souki
Chair, Committee on Transportation
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 433
Via E-mail: TRNtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

FROM: Christopher G. Pablo

RE: **S.B. 2365, SD1 - Relating To Transportation**
Hearing Date: Monday, March 10, 2008, 10:00 a.m., Room 309

Dear Chair Souki and Members of the Committee on Transportation:

I am Chris Pablo testifying on behalf of the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers. The Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers ("Alliance") is a trade association of 10 car and light truck manufacturers, including BMW Group, Chrysler LLC, Ford Motor Company, General Motors, Mazda, Mercedes Benz USA, Mitsubishi Motors, Porsche, Toyota and Volkswagen.

The Alliance supports the intent of S.B. 2365 SD1 which provides that high occupancy vehicle lanes may be used by hybrid and other energy-efficient vehicles regardless of the number of occupants. Last fall, the Congress passed comprehensive fuel economy (CAFÉ) standards that are good for consumers, energy security, and ultimately the environment. The CAFÉ standards will require that vehicles in the near future be more fuel efficient and environmentally friendly so that by the year 2020 vehicles can achieve the standard of 35 mpg. This is a 40% increase in fuel economy over current law. We cannot get there by waiting until 2020 and "turning the switch". Manufacturers need to be reassured that the marketplace will support the vehicles that need these standards. Thus, incenting consumers to select more fuel efficient vehicles with alternate fuel and power train technology needs to start sooner rather than later.

It is for these reasons, the Alliance supports legislative proposals like S.B. 2365 SD1.

We thank you for the opportunity to share our views.