



**Testimony to House Committee on Water, Land, Ocean Resources & Hawaiian Affairs  
Hawaii State Capitol  
Conference Room 309  
415 South Beretania Street  
Monday, March 24, 2008 at 11:00 a.m.**

**SUBJECT: SENATE BILL 2441, HD1 – RELATING TO HIGHWAYS**

Chair Ito, Vice Chair Karamatsu, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Christine H. H. Camp, Chair of The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, Land Use and Transportation Committee. The Chamber strongly supports S.B. No. 2441 HD1.

The Chamber is the largest business organization in Hawaii, representing 1100 businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. The organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

S.B. No. 2441 would exempt state highways projects from county subdivision approvals regarding highway projects that involve acquisitions.

The proposed bill would provide significant savings in time and project costs for state highway projects. Overtime, we have witnessed the County's "ministerial" approvals gravitate towards become more of a "discretionary" approval. Subdivisions in general should be viewed simply from a public health and safety standpoint. As long as the subdivision falls within the parameters set by the individual county, it should be approved.

The proposed legislation illustrates how the process is becoming more subjective and discretionary even for other government projects, which in theory must meet a similar or higher public health and safety test.

Thank you for this opportunity to express our views.

Council Chair  
G. Riki Hokama

Vice-Chair  
Danny A. Mateo

Council Members  
Michelle Anderson  
Gladys C. Baisa  
Jo Anne Johnson  
Bill Kauakea Medeiros  
Michael J. Molina  
Joseph Pontanilla  
Michael P. Victorino

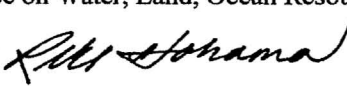
Director of Council Services  
Ken Fukuoka



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March 24, 2008

TO: Honorable Ken Ito, Chair  
House Committee on Water, Land, Ocean Resources & Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: G. Riki Hokama   
Council Chair

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF MARCH 24, 2008; TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 2441,  
HD1, RELATING TO HIGHWAYS**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to exempt State highway projects from county subdivision approvals regarding highway projects that involve acquisitions.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I oppose this measure for the following reasons:

1. The Maui County Code places numerous restrictions and guidelines on subdivisions for the purpose of ensuring that subdivisions conform with the county general plan and community plans, and to protect public safety. In particular, when planning streets, subdividers are required to consider their relation to existing and proposed streets, topographical conditions, public convenience and safety, and the proposed use of land to be served by such streets.
2. To exempt highway projects from county subdivision approvals would promote neighborhoods and communities with non-conforming roadways that could be hazardous to residents.
3. The State, being unfamiliar with the concerns addressed when Code restrictions on subdivisions were enacted, may not have the same safeguards in place to protect the health, safety, and general welfare of the community.

For the foregoing reasons, I oppose this measure.

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