



OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Legislative Testimony

**SB 2900, SD1, RELATING TO ROADWAY JURISDICTION; RIGHT TO
USE**

House Committee on Judiciary

March 25, 2008

4:05 p.m.

Room: 325

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs SUPPORTS, with amendments, S.B. 2900 S.D. 1, which would establish that any county has the power to enforce laws and rules applicable to the use of public streets or highways whose ownership is in dispute between the state and county, and ensures that the general public retains the right to use public roads whose ownership is in dispute to access coastal and inland recreational areas, including beaches, shores, parks, and trails.

OHA understands that one of the purposes of this act is to establish that any county has the power to enforce laws and rules applicable to the use of public streets or highways whose ownership is in dispute between the state and county. OHA recognizes that these roadway jurisdictional debates have led to poor management of the subject areas, and we are glad that a stance is being made. However, we are concerned about how the counties will pay for the management and upkeep of these roads. We don't want to see poor management of these areas continue despite this act, due to a transfer of duty to agencies that don't necessarily have the personnel, money or equipment to follow through. Perhaps some financial considerations should be considered in this document.

Otherwise, OHA is pleased by the other purpose of this act, which seeks to ensure that the general public (our beneficiaries included) will retain the right to use these roads to access coastal and inland recreational areas, including beaches, shores, parks, and trails as is required.

Therefore, OHA urges the Committee to PASS S.B. 2900, S.D.1, with the above financial considerations. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.