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Hawaii's Thousand Friends

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Testimony via email

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Rep. Joseph Souki, Chair
Rep. Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair

SB 2900 SD1
RELATING TO PUBLIC LANDS

Committee chair and members:

Hawaii's Thousand Friends, a statewide nonprofit land use organization, supports SB 2900 SD1 that gives the power to the counties 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 retains the right of the general public to access coastal and inland recreational areas, including beaches, shores, parks, and trails.

Because of the decades old dispute between the State and counties over ownership of certain roads individuals have taken advantage of this difference of opinion and inaction to prevent the general public from accessing the shoreline and mauka areas by blocking access on these roads.

SB 2900 SD1 plugs a loophole that for decades has allowed an injustice to occur by giving the counties the necessary tools to ensure and enforce the public's right of access.

Please support Hawaii's citizen's right to access recreational areas and pass this bill out of committee.