



LATE TESTIMONY

March 12, 2008

Representative Joe Souki, Chair,
 Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair, &
 Members of the House Transportation Committee and
 Representative Ken Ito, Chair,
 Representative Jon Riki Karamatsu, Vice Chair &
 Members of the House Water, Land, Ocean Resources &
 Hawaiian Affairs Committee
 Via Fax: 1-800-535-3859 and Email

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 2008 MAR 12 A 11:06
 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS
 HOUSE OF
 REPRESENTATIVES

Testimony for Today's Committee Meeting in
 House Conference Room 309 at 10:45am

RE: SB3227 Relating to Harbors

Dear Chairs Souki and Ito, Vice-Chairs Nishimoto and Karamatsu,
 and Members of the House Transportation and Water, Land,
 Ocean Resources & Hawaiian Affairs Committees:

The Maui Chamber of Commerce, an organization comprised of over 940 members (88% of which are small businesses with 25 or fewer employees), supports the modernization of and funding for improvements at our harbors, along with a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for all users of Kahului Harbor (a matter that has been greatly discussed in our community). Therefore, we support SB3227 which addresses and will fund harbors modernization and capital improvement projects.

With only one commercial harbor and continuing growth, tension over harbor issues is mounting on Maui. Our demand at Kahului Harbor already exceeds our pier and yard space and we have to separate passenger and cargo traffic for safety reasons. As cargo and passenger traffic increases, harbor user operations have been hampered by a lack of adequate space.

Expansion is essential to maximize this vital resource (as nearly all our commodities come in through this port), support economic development, assist businesses and provide better solutions in the event of a disaster.

The Maui Chamber of Commerce continues to encourage overall master planning for Kahului Harbor, including the development of the State's 2030 plan for harbor enhancements, together with an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and the immediate implementation of this plan. Additionally, the Chamber supports open communication of all current and future planning of Kahului harbor. Further, The Maui Chamber of Commerce supports the creation of a small boat harbors plan.

We have been and will continue to be a proponent for substantial harbor improvements and involved with harbor planning efforts. We called for a plan that provides a detailed blueprint for future development that addresses the high priority Pier 2 advancements, Pier 1 expansion, desired facilities, onshore land requirements, recreational issues, and other harbor related matters.

We understand that in the current Kahului Harbor 2030 Master Plan being prepared, the harbor's west breakwater will be extended and a west harbor ferry/barge slip with a terminal building, along with a cruise ship terminal, will be created. We further understand that the state is seeking more land for planned expansion of the harbor's east side that includes a new east breakwater, upgrades to the Pier 1 fuel line, and strengthening of Pier 2B.

We believe the improvements encompassed by the Harbors Modernization Plan will ensure that capacity is in place to meet current and future demands and therefore ask for your support of this bill to fund those activities.

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap
President