

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 562

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 20, 2009

RE: H.B. No. 866

H.D. 1

Honorable Calvin K.Y. Say  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Twenty-Fifth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2009  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Transportation, to which was referred H.B. No. 866 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HIGH OCCUPANCY VEHICLE LANES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this bill is to mitigate traffic congestion during traffic emergencies that require lane-closures by law enforcement or emergency services personnel by allowing all motor vehicles, regardless of the number of persons carried in the vehicle, to use a high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane or zipper lane.

Two concerned individuals testified in support of this bill. The Department of Transportation Services of the City and County of Honolulu supported the intent of this measure. The Department of Transportation (DOT) testified in opposition to this measure.

A number of areas and communities throughout the state are accessible by only one route. Many times, residents of these communities endure long commute times due to a traffic accident or other traffic emergency that forces authorities to close lanes on the roadway. Sometimes, the traffic congestion that results lasts for hours leaving many frustrated drivers in their vehicles. Allowing these drivers to use HOV lanes or the zipper lane during these lane closures may help alleviate this problem.




However, your Committee understands the concerns raised by DOT that drivers often do not have adequate knowledge of the traffic situation on a more global level and therefore may not be able to properly judge when the HOV or zipper lane may be used. Accordingly, your Committee has amended this measure by requiring DOT to develop protocols for the use of the high occupancy vehicle lane or zipper lane during traffic emergencies requiring lane closures.

Technical, nonsubstantive amendments were also made for clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Transportation that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 866, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 866, H.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Transportation,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JOSEPH M. SOUKI, Chair



State of Hawaii  
House of Representatives  
The Twenty-fifth Legislature

HSCR 562

**Record of Votes of the Committee on Transportation**

<b>Bill/Resolution No.:</b> HB 866	<b>Committee Referral:</b> TRN	<b>Date:</b> 2/9/09		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
<b>The recommendation is to:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
TRN Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. SOUKI, Joseph M. (C)	✓			
2. AWANA, Karen Leinani (VC)	✓			
3. AQUINO, Henry J.C.	✓			
4. HANOHANO, Faye P.	✓			
5. KEITH-AGARAN, Gilbert S.C.	✓			
6. LEE, Marilyn B.	✓			
7. NAKASHIMA, Mark M.	✓			
8. RHOADS, Karl		✓		
9. SAIKI, Scott K.	✓			
10. TAKUMI, Roy M.	✓			
11. YAMASHITA, Kyle T.	✓			
12. PINE, Kymberly Marcos				✓
<b>TOTAL (12)</b>	10	1		1
<b>The recommendation is:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. <small>committee acronym(s)</small>				
<b>Vice Chair's or designee's signature:</b> <i>Karen Awana</i>				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original (White) – Committee      Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office      Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				