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SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
TRANSPORTATION, INTERNATIONAL AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS  
FEBRUARY 18, 2009 – 1:45 P.M. HEARING

TESTIMONY OF KAUA'I COUNTY COUNCILMEMBER DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, CHAIR  
COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY/ENERGY/INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

ON HOUSE BILL NO. 214, HD 1, RELATING TO THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS FOR THE WAILUA EMERGENCY BYPASS ROAD REPAIR AND RESURFACING AND THE WAIMEA WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADES FOR THE COUNTY OF KAUA'I.

Dear Chair English and Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in behalf of the Kaua'i County Council in support of HB 214, HD 1 relating to appropriations for CIP projects on Kaua'i that have been identified as top priorities by both Mayor Bernard Carvalho's Administration and the County Council which have been approved as part of the Kaua'i County Legislative Package. This bill will provide funding assistance for two important projects, the Wailua Emergency Bypass Road (\$950,000) and Waimea Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades (\$6.0 million).

WAILUA EMERGENCY BYPASS ROAD REPAIR AND RESURFACING

This bill, if approved, will provide \$950,000 for the Wailua Emergency Bypass Road repairs and resurfacing. The total cost of the project is \$1.0 million of which the County will fund the difference. This project is important as it will allow traffic to keep flowing along Kūhiō Highway during emergencies. The County has tried to maintain this emergency road since 2004; however, the County alone cannot continue to bear the cost and we therefore are requesting State assistance. This project will help keep the link between the east and north shores open in times of emergencies for residents and visitors, goods and services, and especially for emergency responders.

WAIMEA WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

This total project cost is approximately \$12.0 million, of which \$6.0 million is being requested from the State. This project is essential for the viability of the westside community of Waimea. The current users include public schools in Waimea and the Kaua'i Veterans Memorial Hospital. The project will upgrade the treatment plant and expand its capacity to continue to provide service to both public and private users in the Waimea area. The project will also upgrade the effluent water quality to meet standards for irrigation use and provide solar photo-voltaic capacity to offset the energy consumption associated with the expansion. Finally, this expansion would allow for the development of affordable housing in the Waimea community.

For the aforementioned reasons, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of this bill.

Sincerely,

DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, CHAIR  
Public Safety/Energy/Intergovernmental Relations Committee

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER