



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

IN REPLY REFER TO:

March 30, 2009

TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 185
HOUSE RESOLUTION 149

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

HCR 185 and HR 149 request the Office of the Governor to convene a scenic byways working group to select possible sites statewide, including the Piilani Trail on Maui, for proposed federal designation as scenic byways.

The Department of Transportation supports the intent of these resolutions.

The National Scenic Byways Program is a grass-roots, community-driven, collaborative effort established to help recognize, preserve, and enhance selected roads throughout the United States. The program aims to help communities balance conservation and preservation with economic development and tourism. The Hawaii Scenic Byways Program has been developed based on the guidelines from the national program, following these same principles and calling for community-based organizations to emerge as sponsors when submitting their applications for State Scenic Byway designation. These sponsors are expected to demonstrate their ability to manage and implement local byways, both through manpower and financial resources and to be organizations with a strong enough vision and implementation plan for their byway to meet both the state and federal program criteria.

There are no funds available for scenic byways with only interim or state byway designations. Only when a byway receives national designation does it qualify for federal assistance through the National Scenic Byways Program.

The National Scenic Byways Program is a highly competitive discretionary grant program having very limited federal funding. For the 2009 Call-for-Projects, only \$43.5 million was available nationwide, while 350 applications were received totaling over \$90 million.

Currently, the Department of Transportation (DOT) has a "pilot" Hawaii Scenic Byways Program and on March 4, 2009 designated Hawaii's first State Scenic Byway – the Mamalahoa Kona Heritage Corridor on the Big Island. The DOT is formalizing its program and is now in the process of establishing a State Scenic Byways Committee to review and recommend sites fitting both the Hawaii Scenic Byways requirements leading to a State designation and the National Scenic Byways Program requirements which can lead to federal grant funding and a National Scenic Byways designation. Therefore, the proposed resolutions seeking the Governor

to convene a scenic byways working group is unnecessary as all of the representatives identified in the resolutions are already included in the DOT's Scenic Byway committee.

awana3-Elenoa

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2009 2:05 PM
To: TRNtestimony
Cc: johnsonj031@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HCR185 on 3/30/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for TRN 3/30/2009 9:00:00 AM HCR185

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
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Comments:

On February 20th, Maui County Council unanimously passed Resolution #09-10 which urged support for HB 1778, relating to the Pi'ilani Trail from Kaupo to Kapalua. The resolution would help facilitate the designation of the trail as historic for eligibility under a National Scenic Byways Program. While HCR 185 does not address all of the issues contained in HB 1778, it does highlight the significance of the Pi'ilani Trail and for this reason should be supported and move forward.

Aunty Edna Farden Bekeart has been instrumental in moving forward with this measure and it would honor her and her late sister, Emma Farden Sharpe, by having this historic designation completed.