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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
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IN REPLY REFER TO:

April 15, 2009

TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 185
HOUSE RESOLUTION 149

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, & OCEAN RESOURCES

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 and offers these comments as background on the Scenic Byways Program.

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. However, the DOT is willing to hold educational workshops for communities interested in developing a corridor management plan in accordance to 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 island of Hawaii. 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.

HISTORIC HAWAII FOUNDATION

VIA WEB: www.capitol.hawaii.gov/emailtestimony

To: Rep. Ken Ito, Chair
Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair
Committee on Water, Land and Ocean Resources

From: Kiersten Faulkner *Kiersten Faulkner*
Executive Director, Historic Hawai'i Foundation

Committee Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2009
9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 325

Subject: **Support of HCR185/HR149**

On behalf of Historic Hawai'i Foundation (HHF), I am writing to support HCR185/HR149, requesting the Governor to appoint a working group to recommend roadways and programs for involvement in the National Scenic Byways Program.

The national scenic byways designation is a voluntary program designed to help states protect and promote certain historic and scenic roads, following community input and with funding assistance from the Federal Highway Administration.

In previous years, the State designated historic corridors on each of the major islands and additional roadways are included on the State Register of Historic Places. However, the State has not applied for or participated in the federal program that includes funding for the promotion, maintenance and repair of these roadways. Recently, the Department of Transportation initiated the North Kona Heritage Corridor Project as a pilot for establishing the federal program in the state.

HHF supports efforts to preserve and protect the historic and cultural resources of the Hawaiian islands. While the national scenic byways program may not be appropriate or applicable for all of Hawaii's historic roadways, it would be useful for some, especially those that would benefit from heritage tourism or targeted visitation. The State should pursue this tool thoughtfully. If a working group established by the Governor and reporting back to the Legislature would help promote the program, then this mechanism should be pursued.

Since 1974, Historic Hawai'i Foundation has been a statewide leader for historic preservation. HHF works to preserve Hawaii's unique architectural and cultural heritage and believes that historic preservation is an important element in the present and future quality of life, economic viability and environmental sustainability of the state.



Testimony for HCR185 on 4/15/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Monday, April 13, 2009 2:15 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 4/15/2009 9:00:00 AM HCR185

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Jo Anne Johnson

Organization: Individual

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 4/13/2009

Comments:

Dear Chair Ito- I fully support HCR185/HR149 (the Scenic Byways resolution) which is scheduled for a hearing before your House Water Land & Ocean Resources Committee (WLO) on Wednesday, April 15, 9:00am, rm325.

The Pi'ilani Trail is significant in terms of its historic importance to both Native Hawaiians and local residents who have ties to the area.

The convening of a working group is the initial step in working toward the designation of certain sites as part of the National Scenic Byways Program.

Thank you for supporting this most important initiative.

Sincerely, Councilmember Jo Anne Johnson

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