



The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii
The Voice of Business in Hawaii

LATE

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

12:00 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 308

Subject: Senate Bill No. SB 1611, SD2 HD1 Relating to Highways

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and members of the committee:

My name is Jim Tollefson, President of the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii. The Chamber of works on behalf of its members and the entire business community to:

- Improve the state's economic climate
- Help businesses thrive

The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii is in strong support of S.B. No. 1611, SD2 HD1 commonly referred to as the "Highway Modernization Program." The proposed legislation would increase the:

- State liquid fuel tax;
- State vehicle registration fee;
- State vehicle weight fee; and
- Rental motor vehicle surcharge tax.

Funds raised through these increases would provide the funding for a six-year comprehensive highway modernization program.

As the bill correctly points out, traffic, congestion and travel times have become increasing worse over time throughout the state. In many communities, traffic is at the top of problems or issues that communities deal with on a daily basis. The bill provides the funding sources necessary to address the problems and deficiencies in the state highways.

We strongly recommend that S.B. No. 1611, SD2 HD1 be approved as soon as possible.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.