

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

650 SOUTH KING STREET, 3RD FLOOR
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
Phone: (808) 768-8305 • Fax: (808) 768-4730 • Internet: www.honolulu.gov

MUFI HANNEMANN
MAYOR



WAYNE Y. YOSHIOKA
DIRECTOR

SHARON ANN THOM
DIRECTOR

April 2, 2009

The Honorable Jon Riki Karamatsu, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Judiciary
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 325
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Karamatsu:

Subject: SB 711, SD1, HD1 Relating to Transportation

The City and County of Honolulu Department of Transportation Services opposes Senate Bill No. 711, which would allow for the operation of larger articulated buses used for public transit purposes on public roadways.

We feel that operating triple articulated buses in Honolulu is not appropriate for the following reasons:

- Eighty-foot (80') vehicles would require that many bus stop areas would need to be increased by about 90 feet.
- There is limited curb space to allow for boarding and alighting.
- New bus facilities must be developed to accommodate an 80-foot vehicle.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wayne Y. Yoshioka", is written over a faint, illegible background.

WAYNE Y. YOSHIOKA
Director



**HAWAII HOTEL & LODGING
ASSOCIATION**

2270 Kalakaua Ave., Suite 1506
Honolulu, HI 96815
Phone: (808) 923-0407
Fax: (808) 924-3843
E-Mail: hhla@hawaiihotels.org
Website: www.hawaiihotels.org



31st Anniversary
Are You Walking???
May 16, 2009
(Always the 3rd Saturday in May)
www.charitywalkhawaii.org

**TESTIMONY OF MURRAY TOWILL
PRESIDENT
HAWAII HOTEL & LODGING ASSOCIATION**

April 3, 2009

RE: SB 711 SD1 HD1 Relating to Transportation

Good afternoon Chairman Karamatsu and members of the House Committee on Judiciary. I am Murray Towill, President of the Hawai'i Hotel & Lodging Association.

The Hawai'i Hotel & Lodging Association is a statewide association of hotels, condominiums, timeshare companies, management firms, suppliers, and other related firms and individuals. Our membership includes over 170 hotels representing over 47,300 rooms. Our hotel members range from the 2,860 rooms of the Hilton Hawaiian Village to the 4 rooms of the Bougainvillea Bed & Breakfast on the Big Island.

The Hawai'i Hotel & Lodging Association supports SB 711 SD1 HD1 Relating to Transportation. This bill will allow larger articulated buses to be used by public transit agencies. The larger buses provide the opportunity to move up to 150 people at a time. This option would help to relieve traffic as we await the completion of Honolulu's rapid transit system. We understand the proposed buses meet all Federal requirements and actually have a smaller turning radius than the articulated buses currently in use.

We urge you to support this measure. Mahalo again for the opportunity to testify.



Soderholm Sales & Leasing, Inc.
PO Box 19010, Honolulu, HI 96817
Phone: (808) 834-1417 · Fax: (808) 834-1070 · email: Info@Soderholmbus.com

April 1, 2009

Representative Jon Riki Karamatsu, Chair
Representative Ken Ito, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol, Room 325
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: SB711 SD1 HD1 - Allows for operation of larger articulated buses used for public transit purposes on public roadways.

Dear Chair Karamatsu, Vice Chair Ito and Members of the Committee:

My name is John Radcliffe and on behalf of Soderholm Sales & Leasing, Inc. Soderholm Sales & Leasing, Inc. is the largest locally licensed Hawaii bus dealer. They represent several bus builder including Van Hool. Their customers include the City & County of Honolulu, Oahu Transit Services, County of Maui, County of Hawaii, County of Kauai, Honolulu International Airport - Wiki Wiki, University of Hawaii and Maui Economic Opportunity (MEO).

I support SB711 SD1, which will allow larger articulated buses in Hawaii for public transit, for the following reasons:

- 1) Honolulu is fortunate to be getting a mass transit rail system but it will be several long years before it will be operational. In the meantime people still will have to be moved. Larger, articulated buses that can hold up to 150 people will help to provide some immediate traffic relief, and, if permitted, will be able to feed into the new rail system when it is up and running, from Waianae, Hawaii Kai, Kailua, Kaneohe and the North Shore.
- 2) The bus in question, the Van Hool, is a full low-floor double articulated bus that currently is in operation all over Europe, and meets all U.S. federal FMVSS requirements. It turns in a smaller turning radius than the current Honolulu City single articulated buses due to its front engine technology. There are, already, over 125, smaller, Van Hool motor coaches currently operating in Hawaii.
- 3) The Van Hool double articulated bus in question is current, state of the art technology that can be put into operation here in Hawaii immediately if this legislation to permit buses of longer length is passed.
- 4) Furthermore, the Van Hool double articulated bus has lower emissions per seat & the best MPG per seat of any transit bus. It is more energy efficient than most other buses.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



April 3, 2009

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
ON SB 711 SD1 HD1 RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION**

Thank you Chair Karamatsu and committee members. I am Gareth Sakakida, Managing Director of the Hawaii Transportation Association (HTA) which has 380 transportation related members throughout the state of Hawaii.

Hawaii Transportation Association supports this measure. It will rest upon the expertise of each counties' respective transit agencies to determine where this type of transit vehicle can be best utilized.

Thank you.