



**HAWAII HOTEL & LODGING  
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31<sup>st</sup> Anniversary  
Are You Walking???  
May 16, 2009  
(Always the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in May)  
[www.charitywalkhawaii.org](http://www.charitywalkhawaii.org)

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

**WRITTEN ONLY**

**March 23, 2009**

**RE: SB 711 SD1 Relating to Transportation**

Good morning Chairman Souki and members of the House Committee on Transportation. I am Murray Towill, President of the Hawaii Hotel & Lodging Association.

The Hawaii 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 Hawaii Hotel & Lodging Association supports SB 711 SD1 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.



March 23, 2009

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

Thank you Chair Souki 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 can support 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.



Soderholm Sales & Leasing, Inc.  
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March 18, 2009

Representative Joseph M. Souki, Chair  
Representative Karen Leinani Awana, Vice Chair  
Committee on Transportation  
State Capitol, Room 309  
Honolulu, HI 96813

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

Dear Chair Souki, Vice Chair Awana 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.