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January 30, 2009

Senator J. Kalani English, Chair  
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair  
Committee on Transportation, International and Intergovernmental Affairs  
State Capitol, Room 224  
Honolulu, HI 96813

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

Dear Chair English, Vice Chair Gabbard 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, 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 longer 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.