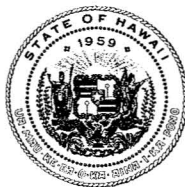


LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



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IN REPLY REFER TO:

April 7, 2009

TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

SENATE BILL NO. 714, SD1, HD1

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

We support this bill.

The provisions of this bill will give the Department of Transportation the opportunity to enhance incident management on our state highways.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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MUFI HANNEMANN
MAYOR



WAYNE Y. YOSHIOKA
ACTING DIRECTOR

SHARON THOM
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

April 5, 2009

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

Dear Chair Karamatsu and Members:

Subject: Senate Bill No. 714,SD1,HD1 Relating to High Occupancy Vehicle Lanes

The City and County of Honolulu Department of Transportation Services (DTS) supports the intent of SB 714,SD1,HD1. We agree that the utilization of high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes and zipper lanes could be useful in managing traffic during incidents that shut down general-purpose traffic lanes on major roadway facilities.

SB 714,SD1,HD1 explicitly gives the State of Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) Director the authority to declare an emergency to allow the HOV and zipper lanes to be used by motor vehicles with less than the minimum number of occupants during incidents. We believe this is a prudent way to regulate the use of the HOV and zipper lanes, and we encourage HDOT to develop a protocol to allow swift decision-making and notification of drivers regarding use of HOV and zipper lanes when incidents occur.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our testimony.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wayne Y. Yoshioka", is written over the "Very truly yours," text.

Wayne Y. Yoshioka
Director

karamatsu3-Leanne

From: Hanalei Y. Aipoalani [haipoalani@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, April 03, 2009 5:22 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: har3-Alana; Rep. Jon Karamatsu
Subject: Support SB714 SD1 HD1

House Committee on Judiciary
Attn: Committee Clerk
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Support SB714 SD1 HD1
HOV Lanes

Dear Chair Karamatsu and Committee members:

Aloha no!

I write to express my support for SB714 SD1 HD1; a bill relating to High Occupancy Vehicle lanes.

Worth noting is the fact that traffic in and out of the Waianae Coast is heavily congested, particularly on weekdays.

As the Ewa Region continues to develop, our roads and highways will bear the brunt of increased automobile use. The crowding of automobiles on our highways, during peak traffic hours, is certain to contribute to traffic related accidents.

Should an unfortunate incident occur during peak traffic hours; whereby the Zipper Lane and standard HOV lane has restricted permitted uses, this measure will enable traffic control and the State Department of Transportation officials to seamlessly direct the flow of traffic.

I commend the sponsors of this measure (Rep. Har and Sen. English), for acting on behalf of the people of Leeward Oahu. More importantly, I urge your support and passage of SB714 SD1 HD1.

Regards,

Hanalei

Hanalei Y. Aipoalani
Resident & Community Leader
Nanakuli, Leeward Oahu
89-308 Mokiawe Street
Waianae, Hawaii 96792
(808) 351-3989
Haipoalani@yahoo.com <<mailto:Haipoalani@yahoo.com>>

April 7, 2009

Testimony on SB 714, SD1, HD1: Relating to High Occupancy Vehicle Lanes

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee. My name is Richard Oshiro and I am the Chairman of the Waipahu Neighborhood Board No. 22, however, I am presenting testimony as an individual since the Board has not taken a position on this measure.

As a daily commuter to town, I strongly support this bill since it will give the Director of Transportation the authority and flexibility to open up the zipper lanes, regardless of the number of vehicles carried, during emergencies. Emergencies may include accidents or other incidents that disrupt the flow of traffic. If you are familiar with the commute from the Leeward and Central Oahu areas, traffic is often disrupted due to such "emergencies." Traffic disruptions, congestion, and delays are constant reminders that we must take positive actions that will mitigate such problems.

For these reasons, I ask for your favorable consideration and passage of SB 714, SD 1, HD1. Thank you for the opportunity to share my views.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Oshiro