

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR



BRENNON T. MORIOKA  
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors  
MICHAEL D. FORMBY  
FRANCIS PAUL KEENO  
BRIAN H. SEKIGUCHI  
JIRO A. SUMADA

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

IN REPLY REFER TO:

March 16, 2009

TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

SENATE BILL NO. 714, SD1

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Senate Bill 714, SD1 allows all motor vehicles, regardless of number of the number of persons on board, to use high occupancy vehicle lanes or zipper lanes when one or more lanes of traffic have been shut down by law enforcement officers or emergency services personnel. This legislation provides the director of transportation the authority to declare an emergency to open use of HOV and zipper lanes.

**The Department supports this bill.**

However, we recommend that the provision to restrict the effect of this bill to a two mile radius from the incident site be removed. Our current Zipper Lane and some HOV lanes do not allow for exits or turns for long stretches of our highways. As such, vehicles entering these lanes are not able to exit them to be in compliance with this bill. Language may be substituted to require vehicles to exit at the earliest opportunity beyond the incident site.

March 16, 2009

Testimony on SB 714, SD1: 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. Thank you for the opportunity to share my views.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Oshiro