

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR



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IN REPLY REFER TO:

February 4, 2009

TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

SENATE BILL NO. 714

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, INTERNATIONAL AND  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Senate Bill 714 proposes that all motor vehicles, regardless of the number of individuals 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 or emergency services personnel in the event of an emergency or incident.

**The Department of Transportation (DOT) opposes this bill.**

The DOT does not support allowing individual motorists to determine if a traffic incident has occurred which allows violating high occupancy vehicle (HOV) laws. Allowing individual discretions will have the potential for causing confusion or problems for law enforcement to enforce current HOV traffic laws.

To accomplish the intent of this bill, we recommend that the Director of Transportation be granted statutory authority to declare emergencies and over-ride HOV occupancy requirements.

Friday, January 30, 2009

Senate Committee on Transportation, International & Intergovernmental Affairs  
Attn: Committee Clerk  
State Capitol, Room 205  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Support SB714 HOV Lanes

Dear Committee Chair and members:

Aloha no!

I write to express my support for SB714; 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 SB714, and its House companion bill, for acting on behalf of the people of Leeward Oahu. More importantly, I urge your support and passage of SB714.

Regards,

Hanalei

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