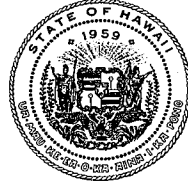


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IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

February 4, 2009

TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
SENATE BILL NO. 715, RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION.

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **opposes** this bill because we believe that the bill is not necessary and it may, in fact, jeopardize the DOT's entitlement to federal funds.

For transportation planning purposes, the DOT is required to follow federal requirements and procedures. These federal requirements and procedures prescribe a planning process which the DOT is mandated to follow or risk losing federal funding. Moreover, this planning process is required for all of DOT's transportation master planning projects, regardless of whether they are short-term, mid-term, or long-term. One of the key components in this federally-mandated planning process is the requirement that the DOT consult with the various County transportation officials. Another key component requires the DOT to consider and use the County general and transportation related plans.

The DOT already does both of these requirements. As a general practice, the DOT regularly consults with the County transportation officials and consistently considers the County's general and transportation related plans. By partnering actively and directly with the Counties, the DOT has avoided and minimized both real and potential conflicts with the Counties. Accordingly, the DOT will continue this long-standing practice in all of its upcoming undertakings. For this reason, we feel that this bill is not necessary.

In addition, because the federal requirements and procedures dictate the planning process that the DOT must follow in order to be entitled to federal funds, the DOT is compelled to follow these federal requirements and procedures. Any deviation would jeopardize the DOT's entitlement to these funds. The DOT is concerned that this bill could require the DOT to so deviate from the federally-mandated planning process. Should this occur, the DOT's entitlement to federal funds would be seriously jeopardized.

Based on the foregoing reasons, we respectfully recommend that this bill be held in committee.



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February 3, 2009

The Honorable J. Kalani English, Chair
Senate Committee on Transportation, International
and Intergovernmental Affairs
State Capitol, Room 224
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: S.B. 715 Relating to Transportation

HEARING DATE: Wednesday, February 4, 2009 at 1:15 p.m.

Aloha Chair English, Vice Chair Gabbard and members of the Committee,

On behalf of our 9,600 members in Hawai'i, the Hawai'i Association of REALTORS® ("HAR") **supports** S.B. 715, which requires that the State Transportation Council comply with county transportation and general plans in the preparation of the statewide transportation plan, for projected transportation needs for a six-year period.

HAR believes that this bill improves coordination between state and county plans, which is critical to ensure that the state and counties are planned, funded, and coordinated on a timely and efficient basis.

HAR looks forward to working with our state lawmakers in building better communities by supporting quality growth, seeking sustainable economies and housing opportunities, embracing the cultural and environmental qualities we cherish, and protecting the rights of property owners.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.