

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

288

Honolulu, Hawaii

Feb 18, 2009

RE: H.B. No. 139

H.D. 1

Honorable Calvin K.Y. Say  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Twenty-Fifth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2009  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Transportation, to which was referred H.B. No. 139 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this bill is to improve the statewide transportation system and help alleviate traffic congestion through a fiscally prudent approach by allowing the State to enter into agreements with private entities to build, operate, own, or finance transportation facilities, including toll roads.

The Department of Transportation (DOT), Royal Star Hawaii Transit, and several concerned citizens testified in support of this bill. The Hawaii Government Employees Association testified in opposition to this measure. The Hawaii Transportation Association submitted comments on this bill.

As a large majority of the State's highway system was built over 30 years ago, motorists and government officials are concerned with this aging infrastructure. Of particular concern is the ability to finance the repair and maintenance of the current infrastructure and the building of new roadways when necessary to relieve traffic congestion.

Hawaii, especially the island of Oahu, is facing a growing traffic congestion problem which can only get worse with increases in population, registered motor vehicles, and use of the highway

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system. This continued stress on Hawaii's transportation system has far outpaced the ability of government agencies to maintain highways at peak performance levels.

Compounding the problem is a decline in government funding to fix the highways. Due to recent wild fluctuations in gasoline prices, people are driving less or buying automobiles with greater fuel efficiency. This results in a decline in highway fund revenues from gasoline taxes, further reducing the available funding for the repair, maintenance, and building of Hawaii's roadways.

Allowing the State to enter into agreements with private entities to build, operate, own, and finance transportation facilities is one method to rapidly develop safe, convenient, economical, and efficient means of transportation. However, your Committee finds that roads already built by the State should not be allowed to be tolled. Accordingly, your Committee has amended this measure by restricting the ability of DOT to enter into agreements with private entities to build, operate, own, or finance transportation facilities, including toll highways, to newly constructed facilities.

Technical, nonsubstantive amendments were also made for clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Transportation that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 139, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 139, H.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Transportation,



JOSEPH M. SOUKI, Chair



State of Hawaii  
House of Representatives  
The Twenty-fifth Legislature

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**Record of Votes of the Committee on Transportation**

<b>Bill/Resolution No.:</b> <i>HB 139</i>	<b>Committee Referral:</b> <i>TRN, FIN</i>	<b>Date:</b> <i>2/11/09</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
<b>The recommendation is to:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
<b>TRN Members</b>	<b>Ayes</b>	<b>Ayes (WR)</b>	<b>Nays</b>	<b>Excused</b>
1. SOUKI, Joseph M. (C)	✓			
2. AWANA, Karen Leinani (VC)	✓			
3. AQUINO, Henry J.C.	✓			
4. HANOHANO, Faye P.		✓		
5. KEITH-AGARAN, Gilbert S.C.	✓			
6. LEE, Marilyn B.		✓		
7. NAKASHIMA, Mark M.	✓			
8. RHOADS, Karl		✓		
9. SAIKI, Scott K.	✓			
10. TAKUMI, Roy M.				✓
11. YAMASHITA, Kyle T.	✓			
12. PINE, Kymberly Marcos				✓
<b>TOTAL (12)</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>The recommendation is:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. <span style="margin-left: 150px;">committee acronym(s)</span>				
<b>Vice Chair's or designee's signature:</b> <i>Karen Awana</i>				
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