

HB214, HD1

**TESTIMONY OF THE
COUNTY OF KAUA'I
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON TRANSPORTATION, INTERNATIONAL AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2009

March 18, 2009
1:45 p.m.

TESTIMONY ON **HOUSE BILL NO. 214 HD1**, AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR WAILUA EMERGENCY BYPASS ROAD REPAIR AND RESURFACING, AND WAIMEA WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADES FOR THE COUNTY OF KAUA'I.

TO THE HONORABLE J. KALANI ENGLISH, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Donald Fujimoto, County Engineer, Department of Public Works, County of Kaua'i (County), testifying in favor of House Bill No. 214 HD1, with amendments.

The Bill requests funding for emergency bypass road repairs and wastewater treatment plant upgrades. This request has been approved by the Mayor and the Kaua'i County Council for submission to you as the Kaua'i County package. I will address the request for funding for the emergency bypass road, and Edward Tschupp of my staff will address the request for funding for the wastewater treatment plant.

The County requires \$950,000 for fiscal year 2009-2010 to assist it with road repair, resurfacing, and other improvements to the Wailua Emergency Bypass Road. The total cost of the project is approximately \$1.9 million, and the County will contribute the difference between any appropriated State funds and the total project cost.

The Wailua Emergency Bypass Road is an essential alternative to Kūhi'ō Highway, when the highway must be closed in emergencies. Kūhi'ō Highway is a State highway that is the sole public access between the County seat in Līhu'e, and the largest population center on Kaua'i, the Kawaihau District. Until the State provides alternatives, Kuhio Highway is closed during emergencies, essentially isolating half of the island from essential services, such as the airport and major health care providers. This State highway is heavily used, and is the site of approximately 90 major accidents a year. We understand from the State that alternative access is probably years away.

The County has established and maintained the emergency bypass road at its expense since 2004. The road was originally a cane haul road over private and public

land, extending from the Wailua River to Hanamā'ulu Town. However, the County cannot continue to bear the entire cost of providing access on behalf of the State, and is requesting matching funds to make improvements to the road, such as planning and implementation for the reconstruction of some sections of the road base, general resurfacing, and installation of guardrails, signage, and delineators.

Benefits of maintaining the emergency road as an alternative to the only State highway linking communities on the East and North shores include:

- Access to vital health care and government services for residents of the East and North Shores of Kaua'i;
- Access to the airport for residents and visitors to these areas;
- Access to Kaua'i Community College and private and public schools for area residents; and
- Flow of goods and services to businesses located in the affected areas; and
- Access to the affected areas by first responders.

The County respectfully requests amendments to the Bill to insert authorization and appropriation of \$6,950,000, \$6 million for the improvements to the Waimea Wastewater Treatment Plant and \$950,000 for the emergency bypass road; and to change the effective date of the Bill to July 1, 2009.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this matter.

**TESTIMONY OF THE
COUNTY OF KAUA'I
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT DIVISION**

**TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON TRANSPORTATION, INTERNATIONAL AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS**

**TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
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TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 214 HD1, AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR WAILUA EMERGENCY BYPASS ROAD REPAIR AND RESURFACING, AND WAIMEA WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADES FOR THE COUNTY OF KAUA'I.

TO THE HONORABLE J. KALANI ENGLISH, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Edward Tschupp, chief of the Wastewater Management Division, Department of Public Works, County of Kaua'i (County), testifying in favor of House Bill No. 214 HD1, with amendments. Both projects in the Bill are approved for inclusion in the Kaua'i County legislative package by the Mayor and the County Council.

My testimony will address the need for the Waimea Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades. The County had requested \$6 million for fiscal year 2009-2010 to assist Kaua'i County with upgrades to the Waimea Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). The project is anticipated to cost approximately \$12 million. As to the difference between any appropriated State funds and the total project cost, the County is also seeking federal funds to defray project costs. If these funds are not granted, County funds will be used to cover any shortfall. The funds will be used to expand the capacity and upgrade the Waimea WWTP, which treats wastewater from the community of Waimea, Kaua'i. Users of the plant include the public schools in the Waimea area as well as the Kaua'i Veterans' Memorial Hospital, which is part of the State's Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation. Benefits of the project include:

- Continuous and reliable service to public and private users in the Waimea service area;

- Ability to lift present capacity restrictions, by allowing new connections, including connections for the development of affordable housing and business expansion;

- Upgrades in effluent water quality to meet standards for irrigation reuse and improve water quality on the coastal plain between Waimea and Kekaha; and

- Solar electric capacity in order to offset the energy requirements associated with the plant expansion.

The County respectfully requests amendments to the Bill to insert authorization and appropriation of \$6,950,000, \$6 million for the improvements to the Waimea Wastewater Treatment Plant and \$950,000 for the emergency bypass road; and to change the effective date of the Bill to July 1, 2009.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this matter.

Testimony in Support of
HB214 HD1
Authorizing the Issuance of General Obligation Bonds and Making an
Appropriation
for Wailua Emergency By-pass Road Repair and Resurfacing,
and Waimea Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades for the County of Kauai.

By
Al Lardizabal, Director of Government Relations
Laborers' International Union of North America Local 368

To the
Senate Committee on Transportation, International and Intergovernmental
Affairs
March 18, 2009,

Honorable J. Kalani English, Chair; Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
and Members of the Committee:

The Laborers' Union is in support of HB214 HD1 authorizing the issuance of G.O. bonds for two capital improvement projects that Mayor Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr. of the County of Kauai has deemed priority projects, among others.

The Wailua Bypass Road project needs to be made passable and available for use during the shut down of the main highway, Kuhio Highway that happens frequently during automobile accidents. There is no other road or highway available other than the Wailua bypass Road (formerly a cane-haul road) to allow the free flow of residential, visitor and commercial traffic. About half of the Island of Kauai is cut off from the other during any shutdown of Kuhio Highway. Second, during the recent heavy rains and flooding which the Island of Kauai is prone to, (it has the highest rainfall in the state) in December 2008 the road was made "...virtually impassable until numerous temporary repairs are made".

The Waimea Wastewater Treatment Plant needs to be expanded and upgraded. The community of Waimea, the public schools in Waimea and the Kauai Veteran's Memorial Hospital are users of the system. Second the age, technology and capacity of the plant dates back to the 1970s; it is insufficient to meet the growth needs of the Island's residents, visitors and

commercial sector. Its limited capacity is a barrier to the construction of needed housing for the people of Kauai and is further exacerbated with the advent of necessary EPA rules disallowing cesspools.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.