

**TESTIMONY OF THE  
COUNTY OF KAUAI  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT DIVISION**

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE  
ON FINANCE

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2009

February 18, 2009  
2:00 p.m.

TESTIMONY ON **HOUSE BILL NO. 214**, 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 KAUAI.

TO THE HONORABLE MARCUS R. OSHIRO, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

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

My testimony will address the appropriation for the Waimea Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades. The Bill makes an appropriation of \$6 million for fiscal year 2009-2010 to assist Kauai County with upgrades to the Waimea Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). The project is anticipated to cost approximately \$12 million, and the County will contribute the difference between any appropriated State funds and the total project cost. The funds will be used to expand the capacity and upgrade the Waimea WWTP, which treats wastewater from the community of Waimea, Kauai. Users of the plant include the public schools in the Waimea area as well as the Kauai Veterans' Memorial Hospital, which is part of the State's Hawaii Health Systems Corporation. Benefits of the project include:

1. Continuous and reliable service to public and private users in the Waimea service area;
2. Ability to lift present capacity restrictions, by allowing new connections, including connections for the development of affordable housing and business expansion;
3. Upgrades in effluent water quality to meet standards for irrigation reuse and improve water quality on the coastal plain between Waimea and Kekaha; and
4. Solar electric capacity in order to offset the energy requirements associated with the plant expansion.

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

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TO THE HONORABLE MARCUS R. OSHIRO, 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.

The Bill requests an appropriation 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 is requesting an appropriation of \$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:

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

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