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IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

February 8, 2010

TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

HOUSE BILL NO. 2623

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

The Department of Transportation opposes this bill.

The DOT has determined that the greatest benefits from implementing an intelligent transportation system (ITS) will be realized where congestion and incidents are the greatest. Because of fiscal constraints, our priority is implementing ITS on Oahu. Unfortunately, at this time, we do not have the resources to conduct or support concurrent ITS efforts on the Neighbor Islands.

We further note that federal court rulings and state law require that revenues from impact fees must be used to expand infrastructure capacity to benefit the developers who paid the impact fees. Since Maui County has not assessed highway impact fees or given any highway impact revenues to the state for design and construction of Maui highway improvements, the DOT is prohibited from using money in our highway development special fund for any kind of Maui project.

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February 5, 2010

TO: The Honorable Joseph M. Souki, Chair
House Committee on Transportation

FROM: Danny A. Mateo
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING ON FEBRUARY 8, 2010; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2623,
RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to appropriate money from the highway development special fund to conduct a feasibility study to implement an intelligent transportation system on the island of Maui.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I support this measure for the following reasons:

1. Traffic delays in the County of Maui continue to intensify. The congestion impacts residents and visitors alike. An intelligent transportation system could benefit the economy by better informing motorists about traffic conditions, maximizing traffic flow, and enhancing public safety by providing for the efficient passage of emergency vehicles.
2. Traffic congestion reduces utilization of the transportation infrastructure and increases travel time, air pollution, and fuel consumption.
3. Intelligent transportation systems have proven effective in reducing traffic congestion and aiding in rapid evacuations necessitated by natural disasters or threats.

For the foregoing reasons, I support this measure.