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IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

February 23, 2009

TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

HOUSE BILL NO. 865, RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION.

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **opposes** this bill.

There are numerous county plans in place, including general plans, community plans, community development plans, and traffic circulation plans. The potential for conflicts between these various county plans certainly exists. Conflicting county recommendations would seriously complicate DOT's ability to comply with these county plans. Furthermore, the DOT could be cited for violating a statute and its master plans invalidated, due to its non-compliance with these contradictory plans. In addition, county plans occasionally lose sight of the intent of DOT's highway facilities. They recommend numerous accesses along these state highways, which slows traffic and defeats the purpose of DOT's regional transportation facilities. The DOT prefers that its plans maintain the intended integrity of its regional transportation facilities. This will ensure that our plans accommodate projected traffic volumes and enable free-flowing traffic to the greatest extent possible.

The DOT is required to follow federal requirements and procedures during its planning process. These federal requirements and procedures prescribe a planning process that: 1) is coordinated with county transportation officials, and 2) considers county general and transportation-related plans.

The DOT continues to satisfy both of these requirements. As a general practice, the DOT regularly consults with county transportation officials and consistently considers county general and transportation-related plans. By partnering actively and directly with the counties, the DOT has avoided or minimized conflicts with county plans. The DOT will continue this long-standing practice in all of its upcoming undertakings.

This bill's mandate that DOT comply with the various county plans, however, places an unrealistic burden on DOT's planning processes. Based on the foregoing reasons, we respectfully recommend that this bill be held in committee.

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND PERMITTING
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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MUFI HANNEMANN
MAYOR



DAVID K. TANOUE
ACTING DIRECTOR
ROBERT M. SUMITOMO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

February 23, 2009

The Honorable Ken Ito, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Water,
Land, & Ocean Resources
State House of Representatives
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Ito and Members:

**Subject: House Bill No. 865
Relating to Transportation**

The Department of Planning and Permitting **supports** House Bill 865, which requires the Statewide Transportation Council to comply with relevant county plans as it prepares the statewide transportation plan.

While the City and County of Honolulu has the Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization (OMPO) to serve as the conduit for coordinated state transportation planning and county land use planning, we believe the addition of this requirement is appropriate under Chapter 279A-2, HRS.

Please adopt House Bill 865.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David K. Tanoue".

David K. Tanoue, Acting Director
Department of Planning and Permitting

DKT: jmf
hb865-kst2.doc

COUNTY COUNCIL
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Jay Furfaro, Vice Chair
Tim Bynum
Dickie Chang
Daryl W. Kaneshiro
Lani T. Kawahara
Derek S. K. Kawakami



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

Peter A. Nakamura, County Clerk
Ernesto G. Pasion, Deputy County Clerk

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Council Services Division
4396 Rice Street, Room 206
Lihu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96766-1371

February 9, 2009

The Honorable Joseph M. Souki, Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Transportation
State House of Representatives
Regular Session of 2009
State Capitol, Room 433
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822

Dear Chairman Souki & Members of the House Committee on Transportation.

SUBJECT: HOUSE BILL NO. 865, RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION

I am submitting this testimony in my capacity as a individual member of the Kaua'i County Council and as the Planning Committee Chairman. I offer my support for House Bill No. 865, which would require the Statewide Transportation Council to take into consideration County General Plans, development plans, and transportation plans to the extent it would not impact availability of federal funding.

The bill provides more weight to the Counties and their planning process than the current practice. This proposed process in HB865 incorporates one of the fundamental factors of smart growth by balancing the timing and sequencing of transportation improvements in relation to county developments. As we all know developments impact both the county and state roadway systems.

For the reasons stated above, I support HB No. 865.

Sincerely,

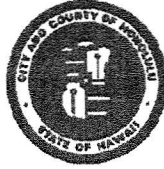

JAY FURFARO
Planning Committee Chair

Rw/Lc
D: 2008-475

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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MUFI HANNEMANN
MAYOR



WAYNE Y. YOSHIOKA
ACTING DIRECTOR

SHARON ANN THOM
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

February 20, 2009

The Honorable Ken Ito, Chair
and Members of the Committee on
Water, Land & Ocean Resources
State House of Representatives
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Ito and Members:

Subject: House Bill No. 865 Relating to
Transportation

The Department of Transportation Services supports House Bill No. 865 that requires the Statewide Transportation Council to comply with the county transportation and general plans.

The department believes that the bill would ensure close coordination and cooperation between the State and county in formulating the State Department of Transportation's Statewide Transportation Plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wayne Y. Yoshioka".

Wayne Y. Yoshioka
Acting Director

BIA-HAWAII

BUILDING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

February 23, 2009

The Honorable Representative Ken Ito, Chair
Committee on Water, Land, and Ocean Resources
State Capitol, Room 325
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Ito and Members of the Committee on Water, Land, and Ocean Resources :

Subject: House Bill No. HB 865 “Relating to Transportation”

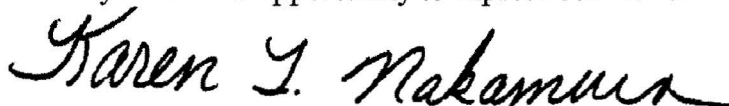
I am Karen Nakamura, Chief Executive Officer of the Building Industry Association of Hawaii (BIA-Hawaii). Chartered in 1955, the Building Industry Association of Hawaii is a professional trade organization affiliated with the National Association of Home Builders, representing the building industry and its associates. BIA-Hawaii takes a leadership role in unifying and promoting the interests of the industry to enhance the quality of life for the people of Hawaii.

BIA-Hawaii strongly supports HB No. 865

H.B. No. 865 proposes to require the Statewide Transportation Council to comply with county transportation and general plans, to the extent it does not impact federal funds, in the preparation of the statewide transportation plan for projected transportation needs for a six-year period.

Improving coordination between the State and County is critical to ensure our major backbone infrastructure is planned, funded and constructed in a timely basis. As transportation funding begins to shrink at the federal level, it is important to coordinate our efforts at the State and County levels to maximize our returns.

Thank you for this opportunity to express our views.



Chief Executive Officer
BIA-Hawaii



**Hawai'i
Association of
REALTORS®**
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January 21, 2009

The Honorable Ken Ito, Chair
House Committee on Water, Land, & Ocean Resources
State Capitol, Room 325
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: H.B. 865 Relating to Transportation

HEARING DATE: Monday, February 23, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.

Dear Chair Ito, Vice Chair Har, and Members of the Committee:

I am Myoung Oh, here to testify on behalf of the Hawai'i Association of REALTORS® ("HAR") and its 9,600 members in Hawai'i. HAR supports H.B. 865, which requires the State Transportation Council to comply with county transportation and general plans.

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

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.