

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



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IN REPLY REFER TO:

February 9, 2009

TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

HOUSE BILL NO. 866

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill 866 allows all motor vehicles, regardless of the number of individuals on board, to use high occupancy vehicle lanes or zipper lanes when one or more lanes of traffic have been shut down by law enforcement or emergency services personnel in the event of an emergency or incident.

The Department of Transportation (DOT) opposes this bill. The DOT prefers the Senate companion bill, Senate Bill 714, which was amended to grant statutory authority to the Director of Transportation to declare emergencies and over-ride HOV occupancy requirements. We recommend that this bill be amended to reflect the language in S.B. 714, SD 1, in order to accomplish the intent of this legislation.

The DOT does not support allowing individual motorists to determine if a traffic incident has occurred which allows violating high occupancy vehicle (HOV) laws. Allowing individual discretions will have the potential for causing confusion or problems for law enforcement to enforce current HOV traffic laws.

awana3-Elenoa

From: Hanalei Y. Aipoalani [haipoalani@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 04, 2009 2:04 PM
To: TRNtestimony
Subject: Support HB866 - HOV Lanes

Categories: Green Category

House Committee on Transportation
Attn: Committee Clerk
State Capitol, Room 403
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Support HB866 HOV Lanes

Dear Committee Chair and members:

Aloha no!

I write to express my support for HB866; a bill relating to High Occupancy Vehicle lanes.

Worth noting is the fact that traffic in and out of the Waianae Coast is heavily congested, particularly on weekdays.

As the Ewa Region continues to develop, our roads and highways will bear the brunt of increased automobile use. The crowding of automobiles on our highways, during peak traffic hours, is certain to contribute to traffic related accidents.

Should an unfortunate incident occur during peak traffic hours; whereby the Zipper Lane and standard HOV lane has restricted permitted uses, this measure will enable traffic control and the State Department of Transportation officials to seamlessly direct the flow of traffic.

I commend the sponsors of HB866, namely Rep. Har, and its Senate companion bill, for acting on behalf of the people of Leeward Oahu. More importantly, I urge your support and passage of HB866.

Regards,

Hanalei

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