



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

March 1, 2011

TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

HOUSE BILL NO. 1239

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Department of Transportation (DOT) supports with reservations H.B. 1239 which would establish a Hawaii state ferry system and the Hawaii state ferry system special fund for the operation of a system to ferry people and cargo between the islands.

The DOT regularly evaluates new forms of intermodal transportation in an effort toward providing Hawaii's citizens and visitors with access to safe and dependable transportation routes that help to stimulate our economy and improve quality of life. In that spirit, the DOT supports a statewide ferry transportation system.

However, the DOT's primary mission and statutory responsibility is to plan, design and construct transportation infrastructure. The DOT does not have the resources or expertise to operate a ferry business. Doing so will only dilute the Department's resources from executing its primary mission. The DOT does support instead, however, another private entity or public-private partnership to operate a ferry business, so long as it is done in full compliance with all applicable laws, rules and regulations.

In closing, the DOT supports the establishment of an interisland ferry system, but recommends that it be operated and maintained by an entity other than the DOT.

TESTIMONY BY KALBERT K. YOUNG
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 1239

March 1, 2011

RELATING TO FERRIES

House Bill No. 1239 establishes a Hawaii State Ferry System Authority and creates a Hawaii State Ferry System special fund to be administered by the Department of Transportation. The special fund will receive moneys from rates, fares, and charges received from the operation of a statewide ferry system to be used to fund the operations of the ferry system.

As a matter of general policy, the Department of Budget and Finance does not support the creation of any special fund or revolving fund that does not meet the requirements of Sections 37-52.3 and 37-52.4, Hawaii Revised Statutes. Special and revolving funds should: 1) reflect a clear nexus between the benefits sought and charges made upon the users or beneficiaries of the program; 2) provide an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity; and 3) demonstrate the capacity to be financially self-sustaining. In regards to House Bill No. 1239, it is difficult to determine whether the Hawaii State Ferry System special fund would be financially self-sustaining.



Hawaii Farm Bureau

F E D E R A T I O N

2343 Rose Street, Honolulu, HI 96819
PH: (808)848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921

February 28, 2011

TESTIMONY

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Re: HB 1239 RELATING TO FERRIES

Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation on behalf of our commercial farms and ranches across the State is in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 1239, creating a new chapter enabling a Hawaii State Ferry System.

Viable agriculture in Hawaii is dependent upon an efficient, reliable and affordable transportation system. Separated by islands, with agricultural production areas distant from population centers, increased self sufficiency articulated by many as a State goal is dependent upon a sound transportation system. The ferry system provides an option that needs further exploration and HFBF supports such discussions.

HFBF respectfully requests your support of this measure. If there are any questions, please contact Warren Watanabe at 2819718. Thank you.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
ent: Monday, February 28, 2011 1:38 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: tane_1@msn.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1239 on 3/1/2011 1:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 3/1/2011 1:00:00 PM HB1239

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: David M.K. INciong, II
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: tane_1@msn.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2011

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill to appropriate funds especially during the financial crisis the state faces at this time.

There should be an EIS done as we had asked for when the Super Ferry was going through the identical problem. This will greatly affect the Marine Sanctuary surrounding the islands of the County of Maui, particularly from November to March when the Humpback whales are in 'awaii's waters. Maui already has banned marine high-speed vehicles during the whale season and should be respected.

Think twice before opening pandora's box once again. Set up statewide hearings before going off and overriding the constituents that have put you in office.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
ent: Monday, February 28, 2011 7:13 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: pkaleikini@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1239 on 3/1/2011 1:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 3/1/2011 1:00:00 PM HB1239

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: P. Kaanohi Kaleikini
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: pkaleikini@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2011

Comments:

There already exists a cargo transporter for between the islands operation in place in Hawaii which has been there for decades. There is no need for a ferry, never has been a need for it. Other ferry attempts fell through and was a total loss of monies. It is disgusting that the State would visit the idea of establishing a fund bank for a ferry/cargo operation when cutbacks in other more necessary public needs are evident. This would only be a financial burden as huge as what the city is facing with the rail.