



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

January 31, 2011

TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

HOUSE BILL NO. 1239

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

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.

In concept, the DOT supports a statewide ferry transportation system but only if it were done through the United States military or a private public partnership.

Though the DOT would be able to assist in the development and support the ferry infrastructure and operations at its harbors. This bill seeks a Hawaii State Ferry Authority of which the DOT has no expertise or resources to operate and maintain.

Additionally, at this time, the DOT intends to engage in communications with the United States Department of Transportation and the United States Maritime Administration for possible federal funds since the funding requirements to establish a Hawaii State Ferry System Authority and to implement the actions called for may adversely impact the current and proposed budgets.



**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

January 31, 2011  
8:30 am

**TESTIMONY**

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION**

**Re: HB 1239 RELATING TO FERRIES**

Chair Souki 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. With our individual islands separated by vast expanses of water, and given that agricultural production areas are distant from population centers, our State goal of increased self sufficiency is dependent upon a sound transportation system. The ferry system provides an option that merits 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.



**Testimony**

**House Committee on Transportation**

January 29, 2011

**RE: HB 1239 RELATING TO FERRIES**

Chair Souki and Members of the Committee:

Maui County Farm Bureau on behalf of our commercial farm and ranch families and organizations on the island **strongly supports** HB 1239 enabling consideration of an interisland ferry system.

First, MCFB would like to recognize the support and leadership provided by this body both in the past and present, in addressing the transportation challenges faced by our farmers and ranchers on the neighbor islands. Several years ago, farmers and ranchers began using the Superferry and recognized the opportunities it provided. Though the endeavor failed, we think it provided a glimpse of an opportunity critical to our future. Dependence on air for rapid transport does not work ... 9-11 taught us that. Other areas of the U.S. and the world, such as Washington State and France, have ferries as part of their basic infrastructure. Hawaii, as an island state, needs a strong interisland transportation system. We do not view the ferry as being THE solution, but it provides an important alternative for ocean transport. We see it complementing the services of Young Brothers.

We request your strong support in moving this measure forward.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our opinion on this important matter. If there are questions, please contact Warren Watanabe, Executive Director of MCFB at 2819718.

HB 1239 Regarding Ferries  
In room 309 at 0830 on Monday 31 January 2011  
House Committee on Transportation

Chair Souki and respected members of the committee,

My name is Reg White. I do have some small expertise in this subject as my first job in 1949 was as crew on a small three car, 100 passenger auto ferry in Southern California. I was also one of the two skippers on KAMEHAMEHA, the #1 Seaflite Hydrofoil that ran between our islands in the late seventies. I have also spent a number of years operating ocean going tugs from Hawaii, several of those years were spent in interisland trade. While I agree with the principles and the desirability of interisland ferry service, I do wish to propose a couple of cautionary statements here.

1. Paragraph 3 subparagraph (b) states the authority shall provide service to all islands, specifically between Maui, Molokai and Lanai. There presently exists ferry service, permitted by the PUC between Maui and Lanai and another between Maui and Molokai. This bill must take the future of these private operators into consideration and provide for the fair market purchase of their businesses in order to obtain their PUC permits for the services intended.
2. The brief experiment made by the Hawaii SuperFerry operation showed that the vessels as designed and constructed were not fit for dependable service in Hawaii's open ocean waters on a year round basis. They also were not built to be particularly fuel efficient nor oil independent. Designing vessels that are able to operate in Hawaii's open ocean environment year round and also planning them to use alternative fuels should be a priority of this project as well as designing them to be self sufficient in so far as loading and unloading is concerned so that they do not require huge, expensive barges and tug assist to affect their service at the designated landings.
3. Do have an experienced consulting firm work out the long term operating and maintenance costs of this system before we commit the taxpayers of the state to take on this annual deficit.

Thank you for listening,

Reg White  
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