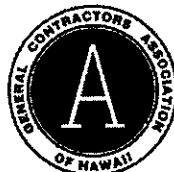


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GCA of Hawaii

GENERAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

Quality People. Quality Projects.

February 4, 2011

TO: THE HONORABLE REPRESENTATIVE JOSEPH M. SOUKI, CHAIR AND
MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

SUBJECT: H.B. 1531, RELATING TO HIGHWAYS.

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Monday, February 07, 2011
TIME: 9:00 am
PLACE: Conference Room 309

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee:

The General Contractors Association (GCA), an organization comprised of over five hundred and eighty (580) general contractors, subcontractors, and construction related firms, supports passage of H.B. 1531.

H.B. 1531 proposes to increase various taxes related to the use of motor vehicles.

The bill also authorizes the issuance of highway revenue bonds and authorizes the expenditure of the revenue for highway program and road improvement specified in the bill. The bill provides the funding of much needed comprehensive highway modernization of our state highways.

Traffic, congestion and travel times have become increasing worse over time throughout the state resulting increase cost and delays for commuters. In many communities, traffic is at the top of problems or issues that communities deal with on a daily basis. The bill provides the funding sources necessary to address the problems and deficiencies in the state highways.

We recommend that H.B. 1531 be passed.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

The Pacific Resource
PARTNERSHIP



Testimony of C. Mike Kido
External Affairs
The Pacific Resource Partnership

House Committee on Transportation
Representative Joseph M. Souki, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

HB 1531 – RELATING TO HIGHWAYS
Monday, February 7, 2011
9:00 am
Conference Room 309

Chair Joseph M. Souki, Chair Linda Ichiyama and Members of the Committee:

My name is C. Mike Kido, External Affairs of the Pacific Resource Partnership (PRP), a labor-management consortium representing over 240 signatory contractors and the Hawaii Carpenters Union.

PRP supports HB 1531 – Relating to Highways which authorizes the Department of Transportation to pursue a comprehensive six-year modernization program and provides it sufficient resources to implement the plan by amending the state liquid fuel tax, state vehicle registration fee, state vehicle weight fee, and rental motor vehicle surcharge through increases of the various taxes and the flat rate amount in sections 243-4(a), 249-31, 249-33(a), and 251-2(a), Hawaii Revised Statutes. This bill also authorizes the implementation of a Vehicle Miles Traveled Pilot Program.

This legislative proposal is especially welcomed in light of the growing economic difficulties facing Hawaii. The highway projects will inject \$4.2 billion into our local economy and create thousands of jobs over the six years of the plan. For our member contractors and carpenters, the prospect of local work is especially meaningful. In previous slow economic periods, our contractors could always look to outside markets for work. However this option is no longer available due to the global economic crisis. Our community must come up with our own solutions, and the Highways Modernization Plan will be instrumental to our economic recovery.

The plan will also create long-term benefits. Traffic and traffic-related stress is one of the top issues impacting our quality of life in the islands. With this much-needed reinvestment in our aging infrastructure, the Highways Modernization Plan will increase the capacity of our highways to relieve traffic congestion and improve the safety of our roads at the benefit of residents statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our views with you and we respectfully ask for your favorable consideration on HB 1531 – Relating to Highways.



February 7, 2011

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
ON HB 1531 RELATING TO HIGHWAYS**

Thank you Chair Souki and committee members. I am Gareth Sakakida, Managing Director of the Hawaii Transportation Association (HTA) with over 400 transportation related members throughout the state of Hawaii.

Hawaii Transportation Association opposes the amount of the increases of the fuel tax, motor vehicle registration fees, and vehicle weight tax all at once.

In spite of economic forecasts showing some improvement for Hawaii in the coming years, those times are not yet here and the transportation industry still suffers from losing as much as half its activity over the past three years.

Then Oahu carriers were hit by the City & County of Honolulu's increase of the vehicle weight tax in 2010 and this year, boosting our per vehicle cost an average of \$400 in 2010 and another \$400 this year. Last year the Legislature increased the barrel tax which added about \$200 per vehicle per year.

Add those hits to this year's proposals to increase the per vehicle cost by \$170 (registration and weight proposals), and each penny of fuel tax increase means an average of \$55 in additional cost.

Unlike governments, we do not have the power to mandate price increases so we have been cutting budgets and making do with less. The industry just cannot afford the kind of money you are seeking for the highway fund - if it even remains there.

Thank you.

ichiyama3 - Cu Ri

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 06, 2011 7:40 PM
To: TRNtestimony
Cc: mauricetmorita@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1531 on 2/7/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for TRN 2/7/2011 9:00:00 AM HB1531

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Maurice T Morita
Organization: Hawaii LECET
Address: 1615 Palama Street Honolulu, Hi
Phone: 808-225-0326
E-mail: mauricetmorita@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2011

Comments:

My name is Maurice T Morita, Assistant Director of the Hawaii Laborers-Employers & Education Trust, a partnership between the Laborers Union, Local 368, and more than 300 signatory unionized construction employers, and we strongly support HB1531, Relating to Highways, that authorizes the department of transportation to pursue a comprehensive six-year modernization program and provides it sufficient resources to implement the plan by amending the state liquid fuel tax, state vehicle registration fee, state vehicle weight fee, and rental motor vehicle surcharge through increases of the various taxes and the flat rate amount in sections 243-4(a), 249-31, 249-33(a), and 251-2(a), Hawaii Revised Statutes. Authorizes the implementation of a Vehicle Miles Traveled Pilot Program. We need to fast-track this bill for the much needed work on our highways statewide and this would create jobs for our unemployed Laborers Union members as well as other construction unions and employers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**Testimony to the House Committee on Transportation
Monday, February 7, 2011
9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 309**

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 1531 RELATING TO HIGHWAYS

Chair Souki, Vice Chair Ichiyama, and members of the committee:

The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii is in support of H.B. No. 1531 commonly referred to as the “Highway Modernization Program” for further discussion. The proposed legislation would increase the:

- State liquid fuel tax;
- State vehicle registration fee;
- State vehicle weight fee; and
- Rental motor vehicle surcharge tax.

The Chamber is the largest business organization in Hawaii, representing more than 1,100 businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the “Voice of Business” in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of its members, which employ more than 200,000 individuals, to improve the state’s economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

Funds raised through these increases would provide the funding for a six-year comprehensive highway modernization program.

As the bill correctly points out, traffic, congestion and travel times have become increasing worse over time throughout the state. In many communities, traffic is at the top of problems or issues that communities deal with on a daily basis. The bill provides the funding sources necessary to address the problems and deficiencies in the state highways. However, we are cognizant of the fact that some fees and taxes will be raised.

Therefore, we recommend that H.B. No. 1531 be approved for further discussion.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.