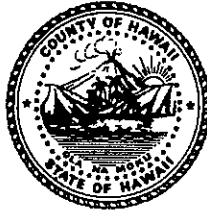


DOMINIC YAGONG
Chairperson

PETE HOFFMANN
Vice Chair



FRED BLAS
BRENDA FORD
DONALD IKEDA
DENNIS "FRESH" ONISHI
K. ANGEL PILAGO
BRITTANY SMART
J YOSHIMOTO

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

*County of Hawai'i
Hawai'i County Building
25 Aupuni Street
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720*

House Committee on Finance
Conference Room 308
February 24, 2011
3:30pm

Testimony of Dominic Yagong
Council Chair, Hawai'i County Council

IN STRONG SUPPORT
OF
House Bill No. 1626
Relating to the fuel tax

Aloha Chairman Oshiro, Vice-Chairwoman Lee, and distinguished members of the
House Finance Committee

I am testifying today in strong support of House Bill No. 1626 which, if approved, would give the County of Hawai'i the option of creating a grant in aid program utilizing a portion of the County's fuel tax funds to help non profit road corporations with much needed road repairs in private substandard subdivisions on our island.

In the 1960's, the County approved large substandard private subdivisions here on the Big island, mostly concentrated in the Puna district and in Ka'u near the community of Ocean View. These areas represent the fastest growing districts in the State of Hawaii. House Bill 1626 would give Hawaii County the discretion of allocating a portion of the district fuel tax allocation to be utilized for a grant in aide program. It would allow the Council to prioritize the spending of our precious fuel tax dollars and to address the dire need to help repair and maintain these substandard roadways that poses a heath and safety issue. Our police and ambulances are not able to respond in a timely fashion because of the horrible condition of many of these roadways. Although these residents have paid fuel taxes at the pump for over 50 years, their local community roadways have received no benefit from the county fuel taxation.

Serving the Interests of the People of Our Island

Council Chairman Dominic Yagong Testimony

HB 1626

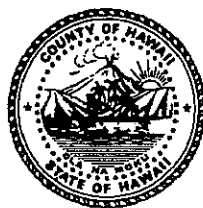
February 24, 2011

Page 2 of 2

It is the belief of the Council that this is the right thing to do for our residents living on these government approved sub-standard roadways. As outlined in the bill, if approved, the County will be able to make grants in aid to the non-profit road corporations established by the private subdivisions to oversee the road maintenance funds. The fuel tax re-allocation would not take money from one district to another, instead it would allow home rule in determining our spending priorities within each district. I strongly support House Bill No. 1626 and ask for this committee's favorable recommendation. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Warmest Aloha

K. ANGEL PILAGO
Council Member
Council District 8 – North Kona



Phone: (808) 323-4280
Fax: (808) 329-4786
Email: apilago@co.hawaii.hi.us

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

County of Hawai'i
West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

February 21, 2011

Representative Marcus R. Oshiro
Chairman, House Committee on Finance
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 308
Honolulu, Hawai'i

Re: HB1626 - COUNTY FUEL TAX

Aloha Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee on Finance,

My name is Angel Pilago. I am the Councilmember from Hawai'i County representing District 8, North Kona. As the Chairman of the Committee on Governmental Relations, I am pleased to be here today to represent our County Council and the people of Hawai'i Island in strong support of HB 1626, relating to County Fuel Tax.

This legislation will help solve road maintenance problems for approximately 750 miles of roads and 105 miles of Roads-In-Limbo, which are often overlooked when allocating fuel tax monies. The island of Hawai'i is bigger in size than all of the other islands combined, making our road maintenance issues unique.

The grant-in-aid program would enable Hawai'i County to better determine spending priorities within each district. In forming public/private partnerships, non-profit community associations would work with government to repair and maintain roads in a full and comprehensive manner.

Hawai'i County has precedent and previous experience implementing Grant-In Aid projects; for example, the Human Services Non-Profit Grant-In Aid Program.

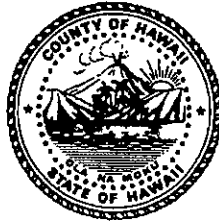
Thank you for the opportunity to testify; we urge your positive vote on HB1626.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "K. Angel Pilago".

K. Angel Pilago

Fred Blas
Council Member
Council District 5



Phone: (808) 965-2712
Fax: (808) 965-2707
Email: fblas@co.hawaii.hi.us

Mailing Address:
(Former County Building)
25 Aupuni Street
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

Business Address:
15-2660 Paho-Village Road
Paho Marketplace, Room 105
Paho, Hawai'i 96778

Hawai'i County Council
County of Hawai'i

February 17, 2011

Aloha,

There are many non-conforming subdivisions in Puna that were created shortly before and after statehood that have been experiencing rapid development in the last few years. Most of these subdivisions have substandard roads, no public water supply systems, no sewer systems, some even have no telephone, electric or cable service. The roads that do exist fail to meet County standards for width, sight distance and surface as well.

Many of our residents travel through these subdivisions on a daily basis, taking shortcuts to get from point A to point B, causing additional wear and damage to the roads. This additional traffic wasn't planned for when the subdivisions were conceived and as a result subdivision road corporations have not been able to keep up. Sadly some road corporations have even gone completely out of business.

It isn't fair that we "all" pay a fuel tax when we buy gasoline but only "some" roads qualify for the tax revenue generated. Puna has over 24,000 registered vehicles which represents almost 17% of the vehicles registered on the Big Island. Puna residents are huge gas consumers contributing to the Fuel Tax revenues, its time they see the benefits in their subdivisions and on the roads they use the most.

Passing HB 1626 will allow Hawai'i County to move forward with implementing a grant-in-aid program to assist qualifying entities within subdivisions to build and maintain safe roads that are used regularly by the general public. HB 1626 will benefit the entire County of Hawai'i and won't cost anything to implement. We are not asking for additional money we are only attempting to exert Home Rule to make the decisions on where our share of the Fuel Tax Revenues will be spent on the big Island.

I urge you to schedule a hearing for this important measure and pass HB 1626 when it comes before you for your consideration.

Mahalo

Fred Blas

TAXBILLSERVICE

126 Queen Street, Suite 304

TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

SUBJECT: FUEL, Disposition of Hawaii county fuel tax revenue

BILL NUMBER: HB 1626

INTRODUCED BY: Hanohano

BRIEF SUMMARY: Amends HRS section 243-6 to allow Hawaii county fuel taxes to be appropriated for a grant-in-aid program established by the council of the county of Hawaii for use by private nonprofit maintenance corporations for the maintenance of private roads.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2011

STAFF COMMENTS: This measure would allow the appropriation of the county's fuel tax revenues collected in the county of Hawaii for a grant-in-aid established by the county council for the maintenance of private roads to be done by nonprofit maintenance corporations. Given that these are county fuel tax revenues, it is curious why such a procedure would be established by state statute. The county can implement such a program on its own. Therefore, this measure is superfluous.

Digested 2/23/11

Hawaiian Paradise Park

Administrative Services

The Honorable Marcus Oshiro
Chair, House Finance Committee
From: Hawaiian Paradise Park Owners Association Board of Directors
Re: Amendments to Fuel Tax Revenue HRS 243-6

Aloha Representative Oshiro,

Thank you, as the Chair of the Finance Committee, very much for agreeing to hear HB 1626, amendments to the Fuel Tax Revenue statute, introduced by our Representative Faye Hanohano. This measure can be expected to address a long-standing inequity and give much needed fiscal relief to our subdivision. This Bill amends Section 243-6 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes, Fuel Tax Revenue, to allow Hawaii County to appropriate its funds for grants-in-aid to the private non-profit road maintenance corporations in the County's subdivisions.

The largest subdivisions in the USA are Hawaiian Ocean View Estates (HOVE) and Hawaiian Paradise Park (HPP), both on Hawaii Island. Hawaii Island has 750 miles of roads in 'private subdivisions'; HPP alone has 138 miles of roadway. All of these 'private subdivision' roads are included in Hawaii County's accounting for the purposes of receiving its full complement of road maintenance revenue, but then are not included at all in allocation of County road maintenance expenditures.

The 'private subdivision' roads are maintained by annual fees, assessed on lot owners by subdivision road maintenance corporations, but the roads are open to and used by other, non-resident, road users. Some of the non-resident users are working, visiting, or providing services in the subdivisions; and some are driving through to a destination not in the subdivision. Owners of lots and homes in these Hawaii Island subdivisions pay vehicle taxes and fuel taxes like other residents of all the islands. However, unlike the other residents, the people in these Hawaii Island subdivisions receive no benefit of road funds within the boundaries of the subdivisions. The Hawaii Island 'private subdivisions' are financially encumbered by the burden of maintaining what are effectively, public roads.

This situation has existed as long as vehicle fees and fuel taxes have been paid by subdivision owners.

Please advance this Bill with Committee recommendation, allowing Hawaii County to take steps to redress this inequity.

Thank you again; your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Board of Directors,
Hawaiian Paradise Park Owners Association

Hawaiian Paradise Park Owners Association
HC 3 Box 11000 • Keaau, Hawaii 96749-9204
Phone (808) 966-4500 • Fax (808) 982-5198
<http://www.hppoa.com>
info@hppoa.com



Volcano Community Association

PO Box 600, Volcano, HI 96785 • www.VolcanoCommunity.org • vca@VolcanoCommunity.org

Hawaii House of Representatives

RE: HB 1626 Hearing Testimony
Feb. 24, 2011

Aloha,

The Volcano Community Association would like to lend its support to the passage of HB1626 to permit the County of Hawaii to appropriate the County's share of fuel tax revenue for a grant-in-aid program for the maintenance of private roads maintained by nonprofit maintenance corporations.

The Volcano Community Association represents over 369 active members whose mission is to protect the quality of life in our Big Island environment. The rural conditions of our roads are very different from Oahu and other more developed islands. Our community members and neighbors often live on unsafe roads that often cannot be served by emergency vehicles. During the rainy season children often cannot get to school due to flooding. This issue is a matter of health and safety

The County of Hawaii was responsible for allowing development without requiring developers to provide proper infrastructure. Now individuals who pay property and gas taxes see no benefit to their areas. These are not private roads behind gated communities as found on Oahu. These rural roads are traveled by the general public and tourists daily and are vital to our economy. The health and welfare of our citizens are in jeopardy

Please help correct this inequitable situation that has negatively affected our largest island of Hawaii. Mahalo for your kokua.

Respectfully,

Mary Brewer
President, Volcano Community Association

Email: hereforthejourney@msn.com
(808) 985-9595

Testimony for HB1626 on 2/24/2011 3:30:00 PM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2011 5:17 PM

To: FINTestimony

Cc: slamberg@gmail.com

Attachments: 12_31_2010.pdf (271 KB)

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2011 3:30:00 PM HB1626

Conference room: 308

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Solveig Lamberg

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: slamberg@gmail.com

Submitted on: 2/23/2011

Comments:

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1626

By Rick Warshauer, Volcano

There is a large mileage of subdivision roads, especially those on the Big Island, that are not supported by state or county funds. Given that these roads are driven on by vehicles consuming fuels that have paid fuel taxes for decades, some of this tax revenue should be shared for use on some of these roads. These subdivisions were created or allowed by state or county governments and are open to all drivers, 24/7, but no provisions or conditions were enacted to maintain these roads at the time of creation or subsequently. Only a few of these roads are given any government maintenance, and the vast majority are labeled "private" or "roads in limbo", and actively ignored by governments, unless they have a specific use for certain segments. This is taxation without compensation.

I referred to use the revenues for "some of these roads", not all of them. Should each subdivision or area decide on a few local roads to be the ones to be maintained for major local traffic flow, and the rest just feed into them, the total eligible mileage would be a very small subset of the total. It is these road portions that such funding should be supporting. This road subset should be a strategically selected portion, further reduced by not-in-my-backyard (NIMBY) considerations, and the resulting overall road lengths would be a small fraction of the total. Decision making ought be done by the residents of the subdivisions, not the off-island/off-shore lot owners, to make it fair—these folks have been paying the fuel taxes, not the non-resident speculators.

The general lack of community coordination and NIMBYism should take some time to prioritize target road sections in many subdivision areas, so it is unlikely that the grant requests will come pouring in at one time, thereby pacing the drain on the fuel tax revenues.

Despite considerable property and conveyance taxes received from home owners over the decades, both the county and state have been avoiding contributing to the roads in the messed up subdivisions that they allowed to be created. Both governments are likely to continue doing so, so this HB 1626 provides the only viable avenue to help alleviate some of the inequities visited upon these substandard subdivisions by government.

I served as a steering committee member of the Puna Community Development Plan, which had considerable discussion of these road shortcomings. The "powers that be" and some members ensured that no road upkeep strategy emerged as part of the plan, but if the bill passes with the grant potential for selected road maintenance, future iterations of the plan would have the motivation to better deal with the issue.

Thank you for the chance to input on this issue.

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

I am submitting testimony in favor of HB 1626 to allow for the utilization of government funds to be used in maintenance of private subdivision roads. I am a resident of the Puna District in Hawai'i, which is notorious for the lack of forethought and infrastructure that created some of the largest subdivisions in the United States with some of the least investment in any infrastructure. Roadways are of major concern to us.

The County of Hawai'i has several thousand more miles of subdivision roadway than county roadway. These roads are currently maintained, semi-maintained or un-maintained and are generally funded by non-profit road corporations representing residents of the individual subdivision. These corporation fees are tantamount to a road tax and constitute a form of double taxation, as residents are mandated to improve the roads and infrastructure of communities in which they DO NOT live. Compounding this, residents of the subdivisions with the least infrastructure are subsidizing residents with the most infrastructure. For more detail on the flagrant and flip disregard and lack of forethought that government officials placed in the creation of the Puna and Ka'u subdivisions, read the chapter, "Subdividing the Lava Fields" in the classic text, *Land and Power in Hawai'i*.

Driving on our subdivision roads can often feel more like driving on Mars than Mililani. Allowance of county funds to be utilized as grants for the betterment of roadways would do much to increase funding parity for Puna and Ka'u. Small dollar amounts can go a long way on our rutted out dirt roads.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Jeffrey Krepps
Hawaiian Acres

Dear Senators,

My name is Derek Shimizu. Although I am the VP of our community association here in Orchidland, Keaau, I am testifying as an individual who moved here from Honolulu in 2009. I support HB 1626 and I hope my testimony will help you to support this bill as well.

Most people think of private subdivisions as planned communities like the MANY on Oahu. The benefits of planned communities at the very least allow for basic infrastructure like roads to be handled by associations. Fees are assessed and life goes on.

To my surprise, non-profit orgs. like Orchidland and many other "private" subdivisions in Puna are NOT planned communities and are not subject to 421J non-profit rules. As a result, associations lack the power to enforce road maintenance collections. Add this to the fact that many people in the Puna district are at poverty level incomes, increases in fees are futile.

As a Board member, we face a 60% compliance rate with our fees collections. Even at that, we manage to maintain our roads through volunteers and careful funds management. We forgo luxuries like road signs, speed humps and live with rivers, rocky roads and potholes. As an association we are constantly under attack from people that damage their vehicles on our roads.

As an individual my main concern is public safety within the subdivision. Emergency vehicles cannot access many parts of the community or have a very difficult time arriving on scene in a timely manner simply because the roads are so bad. There are instances where police could not find addresses because signage was non-existent.

I understand that being a "private" community is a hurdle for tax expenditures. The only argument I can make is that there really isn't anything private about our community. Anyone has access to our roads and one road in particular is used a bypass to get from Kurtistown to Keaau. This road is fed by a County road and is used by many non-resident drivers.

The bottom line is that Puna needs help. I moved here not realizing that this area is the equivalent to the Leeward coast on Oahu and is treated accordingly. I personally think this subdivision should go into receivership and have the county take over the roads. In the long run this will cost the County much more than a percentage of the fuel tax. By approving HB1626, these much needed funds will help with improvements to the point that the community can rally together to take care of ourselves. We are not looking to pave every road, most lot owners want to preserve the rural atmosphere. We would like to be able to, drive on roads that meet county standards, count on Police, Ambulance and Fire services, and put up signage to make the subdivision a little safer.

Thank you,

Derek Shimizu

16-364 Melekule street

Keau, HI 96749

808-258-4853

To: Chair, House Finance Committee
From: M. Eileen O'Hara, Ph.D.
Board President, Hawaiian Shores Community Association & Pakaka Road Association
Re: H.B. 1626 - Amendments to Fuel Tax Revenue HRS 243-6

Date: Feb. 23. 2011

Aloha Finance Committee Members,

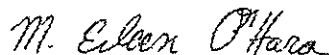
We appreciate the Finance Committee agreeing to hear HB 1626 which calls for amendments to the Fuel Tax Revenue statute. A measure like this is needed given the vast expanses of the Puna and Ka'u districts that are home to some of the country's largest substandard subdivisions. Unfortunately, in its current draft, it is difficult to fully support HB 1626.

Hawaii Island has an estimated 750 miles of roads in private subdivisions which are included in Hawaii County's accounting for the purposes of receiving its full complement of road maintenance revenue. All of our subdivision private roads are open to and used by other, non-resident, road users. We strongly encourage the Finance Committee to pass HB 1626.

The substandard private subdivisions of the Big Island are an embarrassing legacy of poor planning and lack of appropriate public oversight in their initial permitting stage. These roadways will continue to be an environmental injustice issue for all the residents of the State until an appropriate source of funds is made available to these substandard subdivisions to help correct the issue of safe public ingress and egress. This situation has existed as long as vehicle fees and fuel taxes have been paid by subdivision owners.

Please advance this Bill with revisions and allow Hawaii County to take steps to redress this inequity.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter,



M. Eileen O'Hara, Ph.D.
Natural Resource and Environmental Economics

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 22, 2011 12:10 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: Info@ChicEco.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1626 on 2/24/2011 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2011 3:30:00 PM HB1626

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Delia Montgomery
Organization: Friends of Puna's Future
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: Info@ChicEco.com
Submitted on: 2/22/2011

Comments:

Please be advise that I support HB 1626 regarding a Grant-in-Aid program to assist private road systems in maintaining their publicly accessed roads. Tax payers deserve emergency roads at least.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 22, 2011 11:41 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: friendsofpuna1@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1626 on 2/24/2011 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2011 3:30:00 PM HB1626

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Friends of Puna's Future
Organization: Friends of Puna's Future
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: friendsofpuna1@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/22/2011

Comments:

Aloha,

This bill is of great importance to Hawaii County. Due to our unique past (1959-1960) over 45% of our publicly accessed roads are in private hands and in serious need of help in maintaining them.

All the private subdivision roads generate Fuel Tax Revenue with every mile driven. At this time none of those funds are available to deal with the wear and tear on the private roads which generate the tax. We are talking about 750 miles of roads.

This can be a life and death issue.

An example: In CoH council testimony a woman testified that her husband had been electrocuted and she called 911. She was told that an ambulance could not come closer than five miles to her home on a publicly accessed road. She had to find neighbors to help her load her husband in the car and then drive five miles to an ambulance. Fire trucks and police face the same obstacles.

HB 1626 would allow the CoH to work with the non profit road maintenance corporations toward a solution. The biggest need frankly is gravel.

Our organization has hundreds of members. These include the Boards of Directors of seventeen subdivisions. We see the proposal in HB 1626 as a public private partnership which can get needed work done. No county workers will be doing this maintenance work. We have supported this proposal from the outset.

Please, please vote in favor of HB 1626

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2011 6:26 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: sarog@aloha.net
Subject: Testimony for HB1626 on 2/24/2011 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2011 3:30:00 PM HB1626

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Roger Hawney
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: sarog@aloha.net
Submitted on: 2/23/2011

Comments:

Dear Mr. Oshiro and Committee Members,

As a former president of the Orchidland Community Association in Puna, I am very familiar with the difficulties we face here on the Big Island due to the irresponsible way that the island was subdivided 50 years ago, with no foresight or planning. These problems are unique to Hawaii County and could be somewhat alleviated by the passage of HB 1626. This bill is very important to our island and will not affect any other county. Please help us by voting to approve HB 1626.

Aloha,
Roger Hawney

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2011 8:47 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: hiloclayton@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1626 on 2/24/2011 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2011 3:30:00 PM HB1626

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Clayton Hale
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: hiloclayton@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/23/2011

Comments:
HB 1626

In 2006 I retired and moved from Oahu to the Big Island where I found a beautiful piece of property in the Hawaiian Acres subdivision. Unfortunately, except for one road that runs through the subdivision, almost all the roads are dirt. When the top speed for some roads are about 10 to 15 miles per hour it can pose a serious situation for emergency vehicles.

I have a close friend who lives about two and a half miles down a dirt road. It took an ambulance 25 minutes to reach her house, once they were in the subdivision, for her husband who had a heart attack. Twenty five minutes in and twenty five minutes out. He did not make it.

Our subdivision laws were written up so that mandatory road fees, the courts say, could not be collected. In this hard economy many absentee landowners are choosing to not pay a voluntary road fee.

HB 1626, while not a cure for our problem, it does give us a tool to mitigate some of the problem.

We are not asking for more monies from the State. We are just asking for latitude on how the 8.8cents per gal tax for road work is spent within our district.

Please pass HB 1626.

Clayton Hale
P.O. Box 18
Kurtistown HI

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2011 8:49 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: kramernshaw@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Testimony for HB1626 on 2/24/2011 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2011 3:30:00 PM HB1626

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: David Shaw
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: kramernshaw@hawaiiantel.net
Submitted on: 2/23/2011

Comments:

Aloha Hawaii State Representatives of the Finance Committee:

Rep. Hanohano has introduced a bill, HB 1626, which deserves your serious consideration; and after insuring that the details meet with your approval, your support in advancing this bill to the Senate.

As you see from the 2010 Census results, the Puna District, a part of East Hawai'i, is the fastest-growing area in the state.

All of us are paying into the Fuel Tax, yet we get no road maintenance because most of our roadways are within substandard private subdivisions which were created in haste and provided no infrastructure, just profits.

Many other private roadways on Hawai'i Island are in such bad shape that emergency vehicles cannot traverse them. This is a dangerous and sometimes life-threatening reality that can and needs to be addressed by your support for HR 1626.

Respectfully,
David Shaw

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 22, 2011 3:10 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: volcanogetaway@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1626 on 2/24/2011 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2011 3:30:00 PM HB1626

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Diane
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: volcanogetaway@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/22/2011

Comments:

My name is Diane Ware and I am representing Volcano Cymbidium Acres Road Maintenance Corporation of which I am a board member.

On April 15, 2010 the board was presented with a copy of Hawaii County Council Res. 321-10. After discussion of this measure, the board unanimously voted to support this resolution. It was agreed that I would represent the board in this matter as it moves forward in council and through State legislation.

Our corporation was created in 1996 out of desperation. We had no control over the small fund (less than \$30,000) set aside to maintain our roads in perpetuity and were facing rapid growth and increased use of poor subdivision roads. In spite of road assessments we struggle to maintain our roads to be safe and passable to emergency vehicles.

The passage of this measure will greatly help improve the many miles of substandard, unsafe roads on the Big Island.

Your support is greatly needed and appreciated

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
ent: Tuesday, February 22, 2011 3:19 PM
fo: FINTestimony
Cc: frankiestapleton@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1626 on 2/24/2011 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2011 3:30:00 PM HB1626

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Frances K. Stapleton
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: frankiestapleton@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/22/2011

Comments:

Thank you, Reps. Hanohano and Coffmann, for this measure which is crucial to the vitality of the subdivisions of Puna, Ka'u and Kona in particular. This action would help to negate the severe lack of planning that went into the development of the numerous substandard neighborhoods that now represent the cheapest land in the state.

Speaking for my district, Puna has a disproportionate share of low-income families, the elderly, youth without options, native Hawaiians and a lack of commercial services. This measure would substantially level the playing field for all Puna, Ka'u and Kona residents who pay more fuel taxes because we have to drive so far for all kinds of services. Malama pono, Frankie Stapleton

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 22, 2011 2:38 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: cindyluvshawaii@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1626 on 2/24/2011 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2011 3:30:00 PM HB1626

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jerry & Cindy Andersen.
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: cindyluvshawaii@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/22/2011

Comments:

We would really appreciate the state of Hawaii hearing and supporting this testimony. There are many folks in the private subdivisions, who live on fixed incomes or do not have the means to contribute to the money it takes to maintaining our roads. We all pay road tax and need sufficient funds to maintain our roads. Especially for the purpose of Emergency transit vehicles, to be able to drive down our roads, when necessary and for our own vehicles, which break down very quickly, from driving down these very rough and almost unpassable roads. We would appreciate any contributions the state can give for the above mentioned purposes.
Mahalo

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 22, 2011 2:56 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: laura@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for HB1626 on 2/24/2011 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2011 3:30:00 PM HB1626

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Laura Brezinsky
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: laura@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 2/22/2011

Comments:

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 22, 2011 1:28 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: richard@bidleman.net
Subject: Testimony for HB1626 on 2/24/2011 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2011 3:30:00 PM HB1626

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Richard Bidleman
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: richard@bidleman.net
Submitted on: 2/22/2011

Comments:

Puna need to receive its share of gasoline tax revenues. This bill makes it possible. Our roads here are in such poor condition that some are a safety hazard. This is an opportunity for people in the community to take action.

Mahalo

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 22, 2011 1:20 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: sdecedst@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1626 on 2/24/2011 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2011 3:30:00 PM HB1626

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Peter Altomare
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: sdecedst@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/22/2011

Comments:

We pay fuel taxes, even though many of us here in Hawaii County live and drive on substandard or sometimes even unsafe roads, due to the way FTR proceeds are distributed, we see no benefit from our tax dollars paid as FTR's.

This an issue of fairness and safety and yes helping underpin economic health and growth in Hawaii county.

Your understanding and support of HB1626 would be greatly appreciated, thank you.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 22, 2011 1:19 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: john@eco-living.net
Subject: Testimony for HB1626 on 2/24/2011 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2011 3:30:00 PM HB1626

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: John Schinnerer
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: john@eco-living.net
Submitted on: 2/22/2011

Comments:

I am writing in support of HB1626, to enable a grant-in-aid program for Hawai'i County from fuel tax revenue.

We have 750+ miles of roads on this Island that access tens of thousands of residents' homes and businesses and so far have had to rely only on private road assessments for maintenance. Yet we all pay fuel tax - those of us who live on such roads as well as those who don't, but drive on them anyway.

HB1626 will enable a more equitable distribution of fuel tax revenue to serve all motorists on the island, including most importantly to improve emergency vehicle access (ambulance, police, fire) to thousands of residents whose lives may at some point depend on it.

Please support HB1626 to ensure timely passage this year. Our roads can't wait any longer.

Mahalo!

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
ent: Tuesday, February 22, 2011 11:25 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: Johnson@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1626 on 2/24/2011 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2011 3:30:00 PM HB1626

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Joe
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: Johnson@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/22/2011

Comments:

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
ent: Tuesday, February 22, 2011 11:28 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: castleb@aloha.net
Subject: Testimony for HB1626 on 2/24/2011 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2011 3:30:00 PM HB1626

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Robert Tucker
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: castleb@aloha.net
Submitted on: 2/22/2011

Comments:

HB 1626 provides a simple solution for a problem unique to the Big Island. Please support a Big Island Solution for a Big Island Problem

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 22, 2011 12:29 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: hunbet@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1626 on 2/24/2011 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2011 3:30:00 PM HB1626

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Larry Obermann
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: hunbet@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/22/2011

Comments:

I oppose this because I have been told my own subdivision will not be eligible for any of the money because we have already paved most of our roads our roads. The money would only go to subdivisions still in need of major paving.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2011 8:53 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: mcdonaldtrice@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1626 on 2/24/2011 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2011 3:30:00 PM HB1626

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: trice McDonald
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: mcdonaldtrice@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/23/2011

Comments:

we support HB res for fuel tax revenues. we do have reservations though. this should be applicable to real non profits who were forced to pay for "public used roads." Hawaiian acres charter states. " (before statehood). there are no mandatory road fees. we are the only subdivision that has not spent our money on suing and liens agains property owners. this causes the county and state to ONLY steal roads. we maintain 82 miles of public used roads by ourselves. if this passes it should be mandated hat connectivity only eminent domain subdivisions gets money. no conditions. please review the cdp plan we voted against that forces only Hawaiian Acres to give our land as parks and highway. the petition from the largest subdivision is not HPP!!! . vote NO to their private park and road for only themselves. 15 paid project for cheapest lots HPP is because Larry brown lives there.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2011 11:49 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: rossrammelmeyer@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Testimony for HB1626 on 2/24/2011 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2011 3:30:00 PM HB1626

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ross Rammelmeyer
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: rossrammelmeyer@hawaiiantel.net
Submitted on: 2/23/2011

Comments:

I commend the passage of the bill, as written to you and your committee. It is a sound use of our tax monies for the benefit of citizens here. I strongly support its passage

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2011 11:49 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: rossrammelmeyer@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Testimony for HB1626 on 2/24/2011 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2011 3:30:00 PM HB1626

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ross Rammelmeyer
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: rossrammelmeyer@hawaiiantel.net
Submitted on: 2/23/2011

Comments:

I commend the passage of the bill, as written to you and your committee. It is a sound use of our tax monies for the benefit of citizens here. I strongly support its passage

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2011 2:21 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: leslieestep@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Testimony for HB1626 on 2/24/2011 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2011 3:30:00 PM HB1626

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Leslie M. Estep
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: leslieestep@hawaiiantel.net
Submitted on: 2/23/2011

Comments:

These are our tax dollars, we need to have a say where they are spent. I support HB 1626.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2011 9:38 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: dmnstill@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1626 on 2/24/2011 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2011 3:30:00 PM HB1626

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Mayelin Stillwell
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: dmnstill@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/23/2011

Comments:

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2011 10:12 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: dmnstill@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1626 on 2/24/2011 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2011 3:30:00 PM HB1626

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Douglas Stillwell
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: dmnstill@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/23/2011

Comments:

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
ent: Wednesday, February 23, 2011 10:43 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: rstetson@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Testimony for HB1626 on 2/24/2011 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2011 3:30:00 PM HB1626

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Robin Stetson
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: rstetson@hawaiiantel.net
Submitted on: 2/23/2011

Comments:

Aloha Finance Committee Members,

I am writing to ask for your support for HB 1626, which affects thousands of us on the Big Island. As you know, the bill would allocate a portion of the fuel tax revenue collected on the Big Island to create a grant in aid program to assist communities in the maintenance of private roads. At present, citizens living within subdivisions without "county roads" must bear the entire financial responsibility of constructing, surfacing, and maintaining over 700 miles of private roads.

I am a resident of Fern Acres in Mountain View. Fern Acres Community Association has been diligently working on its roads for over 20 years. An annual fee collected from homeowners and thousands of volunteer hours are invested in the existing roads. However, due to the costliness of road construction, many roads within Fern Acres are yet to be paved and a budgetary shortfall for road maintenance is commonplace.

Fern Acres is one example among many where a community has collectively paid substantial fuel tax over many years of time to maintain county roads. We are now asking that a portion of this contribution be used to maintain private roads which not only serve a community's residents but are also widely used by the public at large. Of particular importance is the necessity to adequately maintain these roads so that they may be accessed by ambulance, fire and police vehicles.

I urge you to vote in favor of HB1626 to support equitable funding for road maintenance on the Big Island.

Mahalo,

Robin Stetson
Fern Acres
Big Island

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2011 9:53 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: jcraig4@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1626 on 2/24/2011 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2011 3:30:00 PM HB1626

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Linda Craig
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: jcraig4@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/24/2011

Comments:

I am in support of HB1626 as I live in HPP and am constantly reminded of our dangerous roads that desperately need improving. All of Puna uses these roads, yet the homeowners along have to pay for the road maintenance. We simply cannot afford and should not be forced to pay for roads that are used by the all. The traffic in this area causes many people to drive on our private roads to avoid the back up on HWY 130. Please pass this bill.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2011 10:10 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: garymatt@msn.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1626 on 2/24/2011 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2011 3:30:00 PM HB1626

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Gary Matthews
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: garymatt@msn.com
Submitted on: 2/24/2011

Comments:

My community in Puna on the big Island of Hawaii is I believe the largest subdivision in the united States.
It currently has to pave roads using only fees collected from residents who are becoming more and more irritated at paying taxes to pave roads but denied the use of that same tax money.
HB1626 will begin to address that inequity.