

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



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IN REPLY REFER TO:

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. 917

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

The Department of Transportation supports House Bill No. 917. House Bill No. 917 will exempt the department from county approval process for its projects and allow our highway and airport design projects to be completed in a timely manner.

The time consuming process and requirements necessary to secure county permits have at times, pushed back the scheduled advertising date, anywhere from several months to a year. The process also adds hundreds of thousands of dollars to the cost of larger projects. This bill will help us remain on track with our projects.

Council Chair
Danny A. Mateo

Vice-Chair
Joseph Pontanilla

Council Members
Gladys C. Baisa
Robert Carroll
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Donald G. Couch, Jr.
G. Riki Hokama
Michael P. Victorino
Mike White




Director of Council Services
Ken Fukuoka

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
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WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
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January 27, 2011

TO: The Honorable Joseph M. Souki, Chair
House Committee on Transportation

FROM: Danny A. Mateo 
Council Chair

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF MONDAY, JANUARY 31, 2011; TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO
HB 917, RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to exempt state department of transportation development and construction of highways and airports from Special Management Area (SMA) permitting and approval of county agencies.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I oppose this measure for the following reasons:

1. This bill appears to unduly usurp county authority and repudiate home rule principles. Airport and highway-related improvements are likely to have substantial impacts on local economic, social, and environment conditions. Therefore, local government should retain authority on decisions about airport and highway-related improvements to the greatest possible extent.
2. This bill violates the spirit, if not the letter, of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (Title 16, U.S. Code, Sections 1451 et seq.) and the Hawaii Coastal Zone Management Act of 1977 (Chapter 205A, Hawaii Revised Statutes). These statutes express a strong intent for local authority in coastal land use decisions. That intent is currently reflected in the existing SMA permitting scheme established throughout the State of Hawaii and in the County of Maui.
3. I fully appreciate and share the desire to expedite approval of much-needed public infrastructure projects. But I am not convinced that disregarding established policies and procedures at the local level is the best means of doing so. Working with county governments, rather than sidestepping them, may be more productive and beneficial for everyone.

For the foregoing reasons, I oppose this measure.

Testimony In support of
HB917
RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION

By Al Lardizabal, Director of Government Relations
Hawaii Laborers' Union

To the Committee on Transportation
Monday, January 31, 2011
Room 309, 8:30 a.m.
State Capitol

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

On behalf Mr. Peter Ganaban, Business Manager, the officers and members of the Hawaii
Laborers' Union, we support HB 917 that exempts from county approval state
department of transportation development and construction of highways and airports, in
particular the special management use permit.

This measure if passed will assist in expediting the planning and construction of needed
infrastructure projects for the various counties (islands) and reduce some of the time and
workload associated with the county approval processes.

This type of measure is precisely what is needed to provide employment opportunities as
reasonably quick as possible. We are confident that the state department of transportation
will continue to work closely with the counties to alleviate county concerns despite the
change in process.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.