

SB 780



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

January 28, 2011

TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

SENATE BILL NO. 780

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

We oppose this bill as it is not necessary.

The Department of Transportation (DOT) supports the intent to advise motorists of updated current traffic conditions. To support this initiative, the DOT has developed an Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) program, which is now in early deployment. Initial phases of the program have already been implemented, such as the Freeway Service Patrol, GoAkamai traveler information system, CCTV camera system, and Dynamic Message Signs.

The GoAkamai website is a new travel tool designed to make your commute easier and faster! The website offers the most comprehensive information about real time traffic conditions on Oahu's roadways 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Using State and City traffic cameras, it provides you with real-time snapshots of Oahu freeways, and other major roads and intersections. It also displays a congestion map to inform you about freeway traffic conditions.

As part of the GoAkamai traveler information system, the DOT is currently developing a 5-1-1 system for traffic and travel information. When completed, travelers can dial 5-1-1 to access current information for specific routes and roadways, including traffic incidents, roadway blockages, lane closures, and weather events.

The CCTV camera system is in the early stages of deployment. This system tracks the travel time between key points along the H-1 and H-201, Moanalua Freeways. Such data will be displayed on variable freeway message boards, the *GoAkamai.org* website, and the upcoming 5-1-1 traffic information phone system. The Department will launch a public information campaign, maybe as early as summer 2011, to inform the motoring public of the upcoming changes and the benefits of the system.

In regards to Highway Advisory Radio (HAR), such a system effectively requires the operation and maintenance of a radio station. Additionally, other states such as New

Jersey, Maryland and Pennsylvania have implemented highway advisory radio concepts, and have rated its effectiveness to inform motorists as "low". Major concerns in those states are related to unreliable information and significant cost concerns to operate, maintain, and staff a radio band, as well as securing a radio band width. Furthermore, proper HAR system operation is personnel intensive, as motorist needs specific up-to-date information on congestion levels and incidents that affect their travels. The Department believes a HAR system will only provide limited additional information, if any, to the more robust ITS program.

The DOT recommends that the current development and deployment of the Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) program be allowed to progress which will include enhanced traveler information programs and technology.