

February 2, 2011

Regarding HB 1102
In room 309 at 0830 on Wednesday, 2 February 2011
House Committee on Transportation

LATE TESTIMONY

Chair Souki and Respected Members of the Committee;

My name is Reg White. I am a vice president of Royal Star Hawaii Transit, a division of Star of Honolulu Cruises and Events. Royal Star presently operates a fleet of 36 buses, 4 mini buses, 15 vans and 4 limousines here on Oahu. This is the second time in recent history that the fees to operate a bus on Oahu have doubled. We are now paying about \$1,800.00 per year per bus in license and permit fees to operate a bus on the road. This means, if you look at our retained gross income per passenger, that each year, each bus must carry the first 2000 to 2100 passengers for nothing. I realize that this money goes into the highway fund and that we need and use the highways. What sticks in my craw is the simple fact that the reason the highway fund needs this fee increase is because the government raids the highway fund to pay for non highway expenses. These are expenses that are to benefit others, who should be paying their own fees and taxes to support their projects, not passing the load to funds collected for other purposes. This can only be fixed by the legislature making and passing a bill that does not allow the transfer of funds from any special fund unless the goal of that fund has been met and the fund is ready for retirement. This bill should also make it mandatory and automatic that when a fund has served its goal, it must be retired and the remaining fund transferred to the general fund.

Respectfully,

Reg White
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