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TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1626, HOUSE DRAFT 1, SENATE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO FUEL TAXES

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Hon. David Y. Ige, Chair

Hon. Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Friday, April 1, 2011, 9:00 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 211

L A T E

Honorable Chair Ige and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing the IMUAlliance, a nonpartisan political advocacy organization that currently boasts over 60 local members. On behalf of our members, we offer this testimony in opposition to HB1626, HD1, SD1.

If enacted, HB 1626, HD1, SD1 would allow the County of Hawaii to use its share of fuel tax revenue for the maintenance of substandard private subdivision roads traversed by the public, particularly in Puna and Ka'u, where transportation infrastructure built on volcanic flats was linked to subdivision development and, subsequently, never dedicated to the county. The use of taxpayer money to subsidize private road—and private property value—improvements can be avoided through the creation of a special improvement district, however, per §46-80.5, which permits the County of Hawaii to assess district residents an infrastructure fee, so that the primary benefactors of the roads in question bear the cost of enhancement. Specifically, §46-80.5(b) allows a county to “levy and assess a special assessment on property located within the special improvement district to finance the maintenance and operation of” and “to pay the debt service on any bonds issued to finance improvements within” the district, with regulation of bond issuance pursuant to §46-80.5(c). Thus, the use of taxpayer dollars for private roads is unnecessary, in this case, since the concept of a community facilities district, upon which §46-80.5 is based, applies. Moreover, passing this bill could set a bad precedent, as other private homeowner groups could use §243-6(8), as amended, to seek public fuel funds for infrastructure repair.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in opposition to this bill.

Sincerely,
Kris Coffield
Legislative Director
IMUAlliance

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 4:44 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: volcanogetaway@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1626 on 4/1/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/1/2011 9:00:00 AM HB1626

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Diane Ware
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: volcanogetaway@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/31/2011

L A T E

Comments:

Please support this legislation to help the many struggling road maintenance Corporations and citizens to keep their substandard roads safe. This problem will only get worse with time and increased population. Mahalo nui

From: Elizabeth Weatherford [elizweatherford@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 8:16 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Please Support HB 1626

L A T E

Greetings to the members of the Ways and Means Committee of the Hawaii State Senate.

Thank you for hearing HB 1626, a Bill that permits Hawaii County to return road maintenance funds to all of the island's residents who pay the taxes that create those funds.

This Bill will be an important step towards reversing a long-standing inequitable situation.

Currently residents of the County's subdivisions must maintain roads within those subdivisions at their own cost, although the roads are open to and used by anyone who travels into or through them for any purpose, and although subdivision residents pay the vehicle fees and the fuel taxes that go to maintain all other roads--in commercial and industrial and in residential areas, without receiving any road maintenance or paving.

Currently Hawaii County includes the ~750 miles of subdivision roads in its reckoning of County road miles for the purpose of receiving road maintenance funds, but it does not include these same roads among the roads it maintains. This Bill will allow road maintenance funds to be directed for maintenance of these roads by the subdivisions within the subdivisions, an urgently needed adjustment.

Thank you in advance for taking the fair and necessary action of moving this Bill forward with the Committee's recommendation for the vote of the full Senate.

Elizabeth Weatherford
Hawaiian Paradise Park
Kea'au, Hawaii