

Hawaii Harbor Users Group (HHUG)

Aloha Cargo Transport	Hawaii Stevedores, Inc.	Pacific Shipyards International
American Marine	Hawaii Pilots Association	Pasha Hawaii
Ameron Hawaii	Honzon Lines	P&R Water Taxi
Chevron	Kapolei Property Development	Sause Brothers, Inc.
Clean Islands Council	Matson Navigation Company	Tesoro Hawaii Corporation
Hawaiian Cement	McCabe, Hamilton & Renny	The Gas Company
Hawaiian Electric Company	Norwegian Cruise Line	Young Brothers / Hawaiian Tug & Barge

February 13, 2012

**SB 2875
RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION**

**SENATE COMMITTEE(S) ON WATER, LAND & HOUSING and
TRANSPORTATION & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

The Hawaii Harbors Users Group was established in 2005 as a non-profit harbor user industry group whose mission is to help the state identify, prioritize, and support the improvement needs of Hawaii's nine commercial harbors.

The Hawaii Harbor Users Group (HHUG) strongly supports this administration bill to amend Chapter 266, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to provide an exemption from the permit and site plan approvals requirements relating to submerged lands within the conservation district. The bill proposes to exempt submerged lands within the State's commercial harbors system from the provisions of Chapter 183C, Hawaii

Revised Statutes, relating to permits and site plans approvals. This exemption will enable the Harbors Division to more efficiently implement needed projects to meet the growing needs of the maritime industry.

Sufficient oversight already exists for submerged lands within the State's commercial harbors system for the preservation of the ecosystem, flora and fauna as the DOT will continue to be subject to the requirements of Chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes, as well as the permit requirements by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and oversight by the State Department of Health for federal programs such as the Clean Water Act. We believe this proposal eliminates the delay for obtaining a permit and site plan approval that through other review processes are in place to address environmental concerns and the public interest. This proposal will allow the DOT Harbors Division to efficiently implement harbor projects in a timely manner.

We urge your support for this bill.

Gary J. North

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