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February 6, 2012

LATE

Dear Honorable Chair, Co-Chair and Members;

RE: Testimony in Support of SB 3010 Relating to Transportation
Before the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations and Military
Affairs, and Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
Hearing on Feb 6, 2010, 1:15 pm, Conference Room 224

I am William Bow, a Professional Engineer. I wish to testify in favor of this bill which exempts certain requirements for some bridge rehabilitation projects.

I am involved on the design of one of the subject bridges and am aware of the many requirements. I am certain that allowing these temporary exemptions would greatly speed up the process to prepare the design documents so contractors may bid and construct these projects. The people of Hawaii would be the beneficiaries of these sped up processes since it would create jobs and the use of the improved bridges would be much sooner.

Would you please consider passing this bill? I would welcome your questions or comments. Thank you for letting me express my opinions.

Thank you for your time.

BOW ENGINEERING & DEVELOPMENT, INC.

William H.Q. Bow, P.E.
President

TO: Senator J. Kalani English, Chair, Committee on Transportation and International Affairs
Senator Will Espero, Chair, Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair, Committee on Energy and Environment

FROM: Sara L. Collins, Ph.D., Legislative Chair
Society for Hawaiian Archaeology
sara.l.collins.sha@gmail.com

HEARING: February 6, 2012, 1:15 PM, Conference Room 224
SUBJECT: Testimony in Opposition to SB 3010 (Relating to Historic Preservation)

I am Dr. Sara Collins, Chair of the Legislative Committee of the Society for Hawaiian Archaeology (SHA). We have over 150 members that include professional archaeologists and advocates of historic preservation in general. On behalf of SHA, I am submitting testimony in opposition to SB 3010, which proposes to temporarily exempt the Department of Transportation from certain state-level requirements when rehabilitating or replacing specified bridges. Thirty bridges, in addition to those specified in the Hana highway bridge preservation plan, are identified as needing rehabilitation or replacement and these projects are already in the design phase. The proposed temporary exemption would expedite these projects. We believe that the exemptions proposed in SB 3010 are unnecessary and could put significant historic properties, including burials, at risk.

The state's historic preservation law, Chapter 6E, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is one of the state laws that would be temporarily exempted under SB 3010. Specifically, this exemption would eliminate the need for the Department of Transportation to submit the project plans to the State Historic Preservation Division for review and written concurrence (§§ 6E-7, 6E-8, 6E-43.5). This means that the historic significance of these bridges may not be fully considered prior to their rehabilitation or replacement and that project related activities on land adjacent to the bridges could destroy archaeological sites, including subsurface deposits and burials. Most bridge projects require considerable alteration of the roadways and lands adjacent to the bridge or the creation of temporary bypasses.

We question the need to expedite the historic preservation review process for the bridges when considerable information already exists on the historic significance of many of these bridges. National standards have been developed on how rehabilitate historic bridges to ensure public safety while still maintaining the historic character of bridges to the extent possible. Standards also exist to adequately record historic bridges if they cannot be preserved. This existing information should help expedite the review process while still allowing historic bridges to have the full consideration they deserve under the state historic preservation law. Equally as important, adequate review by SHPD will ensure that bridge rehabilitation or replacement doesn't damage or destroy other historic sites adjacent to the bridges.

In view of the above, we respectfully request that your committee defer any action on the subject bill. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on HB 1972. Should you have any questions, you may reach me at the above email address.