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IN REPLY REFER TO:

March 21, 2013

**COMMENTS OF OWEN MIYAMOTO, COMMISSIONER OF TRANSPORTATION
ON HOUSE BILL 983 RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION**

Honorable J. Kalani English, Chair
Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation and International Affairs,

Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
Honorable Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment,

I AM PROVIDING **COMMENTS ON SCR 189/SR 144** REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO ADOPT RULES TO ENCOURAGE TAXIS TO USE HIGH EFFICIENCY VEHICLES, INCLUDING HYBRID ELECTRIC VEHICLES AT HONOLULU INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

Instead of requesting rulemaking restricted to taxis at Honolulu International Airport, I recommend the problem be preceded by a study to determine which vehicles are consuming petroleum and the amount of emissions from each type of vehicle. Taxis are not the majority of vehicles providing ground transportation in and out of the airport. Public transportation is provided by buses, vans, trucks, and rental cars which are allowed access to the airport through existing ground transportation regulations or through facility leases.

Since the Hawai'i Clean Energy Initiative is a state wide endeavor, the study should be broadened to include all airports operated by the Department of Transportation through the Airports Division. At neighbor island airports, taxi service is a much smaller part of airport trips than at Honolulu International Airport. Rental cars are the most popular means of ground transportation by our visitors and by local travelers.

DOT also operates harbors through the Harbors Division and a variety of ground transportation vehicles in addition to taxi service can be found wherever cruise ships arrive. Since the majority of vehicles are the same ones used at airports, any rulemaking could be made applicable to the harbor operation.

During the rulemaking process, it will become apparent that rules restricted to taxis at Honolulu International Airport would be considered discriminatory and prohibited under the Grant Assurances signed by the Department of Transportation for federal assistance at the airport.

I recommend the resolution be revised to include all ground transportation vehicles at all state airports. Thank you for the opportunity to provide my comments.