



The Senate

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

Media Release
March 9, 2012

Media Contact: Caroline Julian/586-6261

Senate Transportation Committee Looks into Highway and Road Designs

Honolulu -- The Senate Committee on Transportation and International Affairs is looking at ways to improve highway and road design for all Hawaii users, which include drivers, bikers, and pedestrians alike in order to ease traffic problems. The Inrix Traffic Scoreboard last year ranked Honolulu second behind Los Angeles in worst traffic congestion among top 100 cities in the United States. The U.S. General Accounting Office predicts that road congestion in the U.S. will triple in 15 years. Traffic is growing about five times faster than the growth in population.

“There needs to be a paradigm shift in our attitudes about road usage and solving our traffic problems,” said Senator J. Kalani English, chair of the Senate Committee on Transportation and International affairs. “We need to plan communities for all road users and not just for cars.”

Don Burden, executive director for Walkable and Livable Communities Institute, presented some solutions to traffic problems and how to better plan communities to the Committee on Thursday, March 8, 2012. Walkable and Livable Communities Institute is an educational, non-profit organization working to create walkable streets, livable cities and better built environments.

Referencing the Complete Streets Law, Act 054 (2009), Burden said roads need to be improved for the safety of pedestrians, bicyclists, children, older citizens, non-drivers and the mobility challenged, as well as those that cannot afford a car or choose to live car free.

“We’re looking for a way to build for people so that we don’t have to drive that far,” said Burden. “We need to plan so that we can include walkable and livable communities.”

“Improving road and highway designs will not only decrease traffic congestion, but increase safety for pedestrians and bicyclists,” said English. “It will improve the quality of life for all.”

-MORE-

For an overview of the presentation, view a brief conversation between Senator English and Don Burden at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K-S3Q3OyJww>

(Photo Caption: Senator J. Kalani English listens to Don Burden's presentation on walkable and livable communities.)

(Photo Courtesy: Alan Texiera from the Office of Senator J. Kalani English)

###