STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION 869 PUNCHBOWL STREET HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097 GLENN M. OKIMOTO DIRECTOR

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IN REPLY REFER TO: HWY-PS 2.0556

The Hawaii Department of Transportation is holding an informational briefing on the Hawaii Scenic Byways Program on January 13, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at the State Capitol, Conference Room 309. Please RSVP to David Zevenbergen, State Scenic Byways Coordinator at (808) 587-6341 or by email at <u>david.l.zevenbergen@hawaii.gov</u>.

We have an opportunity to preserve and even showcase some of our state's treasured and increasingly traveled roadways, while engaging our residents, from keiki to kupuna, in collaborative planning related to their byway corridor.

Hawaii is part of the National Scenic Byways Program, a select program that brings together local community sponsors and government agencies to preserve, protect and enhance some of the nation's most scenic and historic corridors. State Designation includes the possibility of federal funding, should the sponsor group decide to submit a grant application.

Currently, Hawaii has four (4) corridors that are designated as State scenic byways:

- 1. Mamalahoa Kona Heritage Corridor (designated in 2009)
- 2. Royal Footsteps Along the Kona Coast (designated in 2010)
- 3. Kau Scenic Byway The Slopes of Mauna Loa (designated in 2011)
- 4. Kauai Scenic Byway Holo Holo Koloa Scenic Byway (designated in 2011)

Community participation is key to the Hawaii Scenic Byways process. Each community determines collectively what its priorities are – infrastructure improvements; increased safety for driving, bicycling, walking; enhancing the local economy and opportunities for local businesses; preserving the environment; and/or telling a unique story to travelers along the way.

As a "grassroots" driven program, it is up to individual communities to explore the pros and cons of participation and determine whether they have enough support to qualify for designation and whether their residents will support the program. There are significant benefits, which we want to share with you and the stakeholders in your district. With your help, we can improve communication about the Hawaii Scenic Byways program.

We look forward to seeing you on January 13, 2012. If you have any questions, please contact David Zevenbergen, State Scenic Byways Coordinator at (808) 587-6341. For additional information, please visit our recently launched website at <u>www.hawaiiscenicbyways.org</u>.

Very truly yours,

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GLENN M. OKIMOTO, Ph.D. Director of Transportation