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IN REPLY REFER TO:

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

March 17, 2016
9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 325

H.C.R. 189
URGING THE STATE AND COUNTY DEPARTMENTS OF TRANSPORTATION TO
ADD HAWAIIAN DIACRITICAL MARKS WHERE APPROPRIATE TO ALL STREET
SIGNS AND PLACE NAME SIGNS ALONG HIGHWAYS AND ROADWAYS UPON
THE REPLACEMENT OF SUCH SIGNS.

House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources, and Hawaiian Affairs

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** the intent of this resolution. However, we have the following comments:

1. The DOT uses the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) for the design and installation of signs. The MUTCD is a nationally recognized standard developed by the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration and is adopted by the State of Hawaii for traffic control devices on public roads. The MUTCD requires words messages to be standardized without periods, apostrophes, questions marks, ampersands, or other punctuations or characters that are not letters, numerals, or hyphens to avoid roadway user confusion and meet the necessary legibility distance with the smallest sign possible.
2. Adding diacritical marks will increase the size of signs and may make it difficult or not possible to install due to limited space on our roadways. Also, existing overhead sign structures will not be able to accommodate larger guide signs because of new higher wind loading standards.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.