



LATE

HAWAII LODGING & TOURISM
ASSOCIATION

Testimony of

Mufi Hannemann
President & CEO
Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association

Committees on
Transportation and Energy
Water, Land, and Agriculture
February 9, 2016

Senate Bill 3022: Relating to Ferries

Chair Inouye, Chair Gabbard, and members of the Transportation and Energy and Water, Land, and Agriculture committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. On behalf of the Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association, we support Senate Bill 3022, which would require the state Department of Land and Natural Resources to conduct an environmental assessment for the establishment of an intra-state or inter-state ferry system, as well as provide a non-refundable tax credit and reduction in harbor fees for the first year of operation for any company operating such a vessel.

HLTA supports this measure because an inter-island/intra-island ferry system would offer a transportation alternative for passengers and vehicles traveling between the Hawaiian Islands. A local ferry system would also provide an attractive shipping option for small businesses and farmers, while enabling kupuna, disabled individuals, families with infants, and youth groups to enjoy another mode of travel between the islands. We also believe during times of statewide emergencies caused by natural or man-made disasters, it would be a practical way to move people, equipment, food, and supplies between the islands.

When the inter-island ferry was last implemented, it proved to be a popular transportation choice. Surveys continue to show that an overwhelming majority of the people of Hawaii want a ferry service. This bill enables the state to take a critical first step in addressing important environmental issues that were bypassed the first time and a major reason the ferry service was halted. It will also add incentives for parties interested on reviving a ferry system for Hawaii.

Mahalo.

BIA-HAWAII

BUILDING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

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Testimony to the Senate Committees on Water, Land, & Agriculture, and Senate Committee on Transportation & Energy

Tuesday, February 9, 2016

2:45 p.m.

State Capitol - Conference Room 229

LATE

RE: SB 3022 – Relating to Ferries.

Dear Chairs Gabbard & Inouye, Vice-Chairs Nishihara & Gabbard, and members of the Committees:

My name is Gladys Marrone, Chief Executive Officer for the Building Industry Association of Hawaii (BIA-Hawaii), the Voice of the Construction Industry. We promote our members through advocacy and education, and provide community outreach programs to enhance the quality of life for the people of Hawaii. BIA-Hawaii is a not-for-profit professional trade organization chartered in 1955, and affiliated with the National Association of Home Builders.

While BIA Hawaii understands and supports the intent of revisiting an inter-island ferry system, we are concerned on the wording of S.B. 3022 which proposes to require the department of land and natural resources to conduct any necessary environmental assessment for the establishment of an intra-state or inter-state ferry system and makes an appropriation. Funding of the environmental assessment will be through an appropriation from the environmental response, energy, and food security tax. This bill also provides for a non-refundable tax credit and a fifty per cent reduction in harbor fees for the first year of operation for any company operating an inter-island ferry vessel.

Insofar as the proposed inter-island ferry would operate out of the State Department of Transportation Harbor facilities, it is unusual to have another agency, in this case the Department of Land and Natural Resource, be responsible for preparing the Chapter 343 HRS document. Moreover, without some understanding of how the ferries will operate, including the type of water craft that will be used, it would be difficult if not impossible to prepare a valid environmental assessment.

Perhaps, given the fiasco of the Superferry, there needs to be a more coordinated effort among the agencies and potential operators in developing an environmental assessment that would meet the requirements of Chapter 343 HRS as a "public disclosure" document, and avoid future challenges that "sunk" the Superferry's operations in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our views on this matter.

Kaala Coleman

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2016 5:41 PM
To: TRE Testimony
Cc: maliah@grassrootinstitute.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB3022 on Feb 9, 2016 14:45PM
Attachments: Testimony SB3022 (ferries).docx

SB3022

Submitted on: 2/8/2016
 Testimony for TRE/WLA on Feb 9, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keli'i Akina	Grassroot Institute of Hawaii	Comments Only	Yes

Comments: comments attached, thank you.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Kaala Coleman

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2016 4:37 PM
To: TRE Testimony
Cc: hgalbiso@seafarers.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB3022 on Feb 9, 2016 14:45PM*

SB3022

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for TRE/WLA on Feb 9, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hazel Galbiso	Seafarers International Union	Support	No

Comments:

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Kaala Coleman

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 3:46 PM
To: TRE Testimony
Cc: tulsi@mauiishome.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB3022 on Feb 9, 2016 14:45PM

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SB3022

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for TRE/WLA on Feb 9, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tulsi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Please don't bring the super ferry back!! Whales do not need these fast boats running into them. We don't need invasive species coming over to Maui sue as the coqui frog from the big island. Please oppose this bill. Thank you Tulsi

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Kaala Coleman

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 3:46 PM
To: TRE Testimony
Cc: Alana.Ross@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB3022 on Feb 9, 2016 14:45PM*

SB3022

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for TRE/WLA on Feb 9, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
AlanaRoss	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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Kaala Coleman

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2016 6:26 PM
To: TRE Testimony
Cc: lkaili@mebaunion.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB3022 on Feb 9, 2016 14:45PM

SB3022

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for TRE/WLA on Feb 9, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
luke kaili	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in full support of bill SB-3022. The bill covered significant reasons why the state of Hawaii is in need of a ferry system.

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Kaala Coleman

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2016 6:50 PM
To: TRE Testimony
Cc: svickery@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB3022 on Feb 9, 2016 14:45PM

SB3022

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for TRE/WLA on Feb 9, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Vickery	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: No No No. Passengers no cars perhaps

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