



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

The Voice of Business

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Monday, April 3, 2017 at 1:35 P.M.
Conference Room 211, State Capitol**

LATE

RE: HOUSE BILL 115 HD1 SD1 RELATING TO HIGHWAYS

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports the intent of** HB 115 HD1 SD1, which requires each county with a population of over five hundred thousand or greater to take ownership and jurisdiction over all disputed roads under certain circumstances; defines disputed roads.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 1,600+ businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

This bill is one possible solution to an ongoing problem. There are numerous roads throughout the State whose ownership has been disputed or called into question. These roads often do not receive proper care and maintenance. These disputes create difficulties for members of the public and government agencies when individuals report repair or maintenance issues. At the same time we understand that this must work for all stakeholders.

Last year the Legislature passed and the Governor Act 194 which placed a pilot system dealing with privately owned roads into place. It is our understanding that DOT has begun to organize the commission set forth in the bill but may not be able to encumber the funds in time. We respectfully ask that this committee consider extending the funding for one more fiscal year.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.