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IN REPLY REFER TO:

STATE OF HAWAII
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9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 423

S.B. 389, S.D. 1
RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION

House Committee on Transportation

The Department of Transportation (DOT) has the following **concerns** with S.B. 389 to establish speed limits for Route 3000, also known as the Lahaina Bypass:

1. Raising the speed limit from 30 miles per hour to 35 miles per hour (mph) for 0.84 miles results in less than 15 seconds in travel time savings. This may not provide the incentive for more motorists to use the Lahaina Bypass versus staying on Honoapiilani Highway. In addition, the 45 mph from milepost 2.09 to milepost 3.26 is the existing speed limit.
2. SB 389 will create an abrupt speed transition zone approaching Hokiokio Street. Motorists will have to transition from 45 mph to 25 mph approaching Hokiokio Street in the same distance meant for a 10 mph speed reduction. A safe speed transition zone requires reducing the higher speed limit gradually by 10 mph increments. The existing 35 mph speed limit from milepost 2.09 to milepost 1.92 provides the appropriate speed transition zone.
3. Speeding continues to be a significant factor contributing to serious traffic crashes and fatalities. The speed at which a vehicle travels will often determine the severity of the injuries and damages. The higher the speed, the more severe the injury and damages.
4. In developing areas, statutory speed limits decrease the DOT's flexibility to appropriately set speed limits and could delay construction permit approvals when the roadway environment changes due to development of adjacent lands, increases in the number of pedestrians and/or bicyclists, and/or higher volumes of cross street traffic.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.