

Harry Kim  
Mayor



Wil Okabe  
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Deputy Managing Director

## County of Hawai'i

### Office of the Mayor

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February 26, 2018

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Committee on Finance  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 308  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice-Chair  
Committee on Finance  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 308  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen and Committee Members:

**Re: HB 2570, HD 1 Relating to Repairing Substandard Private Roads  
Hearing Date: 02/27/18 – 12:00 pm; House Conference Room 308**

The problem of deteriorating private roads, primarily in Puna subdivisions, has been of long standing and is only getting worse. For that reason, I applaud Representative San Buenaventura for initiating HB 2570, HD 1, which attempts to address the festering problem in an innovative way.

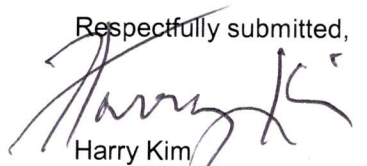
However, this problem has developed over several decades, and deserves a thorough evaluation before the best path forward can be determined. Furthermore, if HB 2570, HD 1 were to pass, Hawai'i County would not have enough staff for the pilot program, nor to collect the fees that would be assessed. We would also anticipate large uncollectibles, raising the question of what to do about them.

We would respectfully suggest that, instead of choosing the solution dictated by HB 2570, HD 1, it would be better to order a thorough feasibility study looking at implementation options as well as funding choices. We would want such a study to include significant opportunities for the public to participate in the decision-making process, increasing the chances of all-important community buy-in.

There is no in-house staff to undertake such a study, and we estimate that hiring a consultant would cost in the neighborhood of \$300,000. If the Legislature could help us fund such a contract, I can pledge that the various departments of the County government will do their best to identify and then implement the most viable program that can bring these subdivision roads up to 21<sup>st</sup> century standards.

I again thank those who are attempting to find a way forward, and urge that HB 2570, HD 1 be further amended as explained above.

Respectfully submitted,



Harry Kim  
Mayor, County of Hawai'i

**HB-2570-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 10:43:53 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2018 12:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
sheldon lehman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in full support of HB2570 and ask you to please pass this bill. For years now the counties have allowed these substandard subdivisions to be built and sold but have not required them to maintain their roadways. By turning the responsibility over to the Counties the quality of life in these areas will be greatly improved.

**HB-2570-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 10:55:30 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2018 12:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
jeff and linda krum	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We support HB2570. We are homeowners in the HPP community. The safety of the homes and community members are currently at risk due to the horrible condition of the roads.

As a community our road fees are approximately \$2.4 million annually for 8000+ lots. The members are allowed 3 meetings annually which bring up issues to the board. During the last two years issues brought up have gone to deaf ears. We unanimously voted for a forensic audit and the board will not address our request.

We need help and support to pave and upgrade our roads with the funding available. We have no confidence in this board and request government oversight. HB2570 would provide this needed oversight and would bring HPP community up to county standards.

**HB-2570-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 11:58:59 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2018 12:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mark Good	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of HB2570, I am a volunteer fire fighter for Co. 5 Bravo, Hawaiian Acres. In Hawaiian Acres we have about 70 miles of unimproved roadways and on several occasions we have been called to strucure fires only to arrive to late to save the home due to the extreem decay of the roads in our subdivision, The regular fire dept. almost always arrives after we do due to the unaccessability of our roadways. If the county took over maintainence of these roads many more homes could be saved from destrucion. Im hoping the dept. of thansportation chooses Hawaiian Acres for their test project. Dearest members of the house, please pass this bill into law, Thank you, Mark Joesph Good

**HB-2570-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 2:11:54 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2018 12:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Laurence Rodamer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, I have been a resident of Fern Forest Subdivision for over 24 years. During that time we have at our own expense, gradually improved 56 miles of dirt roads. Our current budget is about \$260K a year that is collected from all lot owners. During the time I have lived here, we have had good, and not so good results from our volunteer road maintenance board. The only requirement to be on the board is willingness to attend the meetings, no construction, or road maintenance knowledge is needed. I personally welcome county professionals to collect our road maintenance assement, and maintain our subdivision roads. Thank you, Laruenc Rodamer.

**HB-2570-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 4:45:47 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2018 12:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jordan Epperson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2570-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2018 7:55:09 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2018 12:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Antonio Barsotti	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I am in support of HB 2570 HD1. I am currently a resident and property owner in hpp. My road has been "maintained" once per year for the two years I have lived here. I live on a dead end road that doesnt get much traffic, so my road is not as bad as others. Above this issue is just the general lack of transperency and managment of HPP HOA Funds. There are a lot of lower income and fixed income families in the park, This rates keep increaseing yearly to make up for budget shortfalls, due to lack of orginazation and experience of our volunteer board. Having county management over our roads is a good idea on paper. The community of HPP is growing tired of the lack of work and upkeep for their dues and the lack of transperancy of where the funds are actually going. I was not here 15-20 years ago where HPP was a smaller AG community. with few lot owners and a small budget. unexperienced Volunteers run, what is, in most cases considered a large town (12,000 people). One person last year ran for his district and won unapposed with the tag line " I will not steal your money". This Town in too large and 2.4 million dollars worth of funds from memeber too large to be run by inexperienced volunteers.

Thank you for you time

Antonio Barsotti

President Barsottis Fire Protection Inc

**From:** [John Honda](#)  
**To:** [FINTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Having problems with my testament on website  
**Date:** Monday, February 26, 2018 8:26:31 AM

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Aloha,

I am very sorry for the late submission, but may I forward the message below as testimony for HB2570 (scheduled for hearing in FIN today).

Thank you very much!

Sincerely,  
John Honda  
X66530

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**From:** Tanya Seaver [mailto:tanyaseaver@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 25, 2018 11:00 AM  
**To:** John Honda <j.honda@capitol.hawaii.gov>  
**Subject:** Having problems with my testament on website

As I am not in office all of my correspondence is by my phone and possibly this is my problem with submitting my testimony via the website. I would request our thoughts be relayed for support of HB2570

We own 2 properties in HPP and pay \$656 annually. The income exceeds over 4 million dollars annually for the road maintenance and improvements as there are well over 8800 properties in the subdivision.

HPP is the second largest development in the Us and a multi million dollar non profit that is overseen by a HOA board that has no requirements for Qualifications or experience in neither finance or road construction. It is fact of which can be confirmed with the DCCA that the board and maintenance General Manager have been contracting with unlicensed individuals for the building and improvements of our roadways in the amount of hundreds of thousands of dollars for work that is substandard and deteriorating within months of application. It is absurd For the HOA board lacking the experience and qualifications are making professional decisions in overseeing and operating a multi million dollar non profit for the members of the community. They have and are proving gross misconduct of association funds. The community deserves more for their community that the county permitted to be built so many years ago!

These "private roads are utilized by the public on a daily basis as outside traffic use the roads as short cuts during high traffic hours on the Keaau Hwy also the State stipulates ocean access through the roadways in HPP which should now consider them to be public roadways. As our roadways are serving the public they should be constructed to the standards of the state and county for the safety of the community, the public and the pedestrians. With the amount of



public vehicle traffic on these roads safety should be the most important factor on the decision of Bill HB2570 I sincerely hope this is considered to the full extent in passing this bill.

Tanya Seaver & Benjamin Leslie

HC 1 box 4119 Keaau

Hawaii 96749

808-333-9074

Sent from my iPhone

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



**LATE**

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

February 27, 2018  
12:00 p.m.  
State Capitol, Room 308

**H.B. 2570, H.D. 1**  
**RELATING TO ROAD REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE IN HOUSING SUBDIVISIONS**

House Committee on Finance

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The Department of Transportation (DOT) is submitting comments regarding H.B. 2570, H.D. 1. This bill would require the DOT to establish a pilot program to help maintain roadways in housing subdivisions. DOT has no role in this matter; it is outside our jurisdiction. The counties are better equipped to maintain these roadways.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**Testimony by:**

JADE T. BUTAY  
INTERIM DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors  
ROY CATALANI  
ROSS M. HIGASHI  
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN  
DARRELL T. YOUNG

IN REPLY REFER TO:

**LATE**

**HB-2570-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2018 6:57:20 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2018 12:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
linnette quade	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I would ask the finance committee to please pass this bill. I live in Puna, the fastest growing district in Hawaii, full of subdivisions with private roads in total disrepair. The world has changed, folks no longer seem to be neighbor helping neighbor, or what can they do to help, or have any responsibility to help pay for the roads they live on. The small percentage that does pay their private road dues cannot possibly keep up with the damage caused by the growing population that doesn't pay their dues. Not to mention school buses, emergency vehicles, and heavy equipment coming in to build yet more homes. If everyone paid their fair share we could have nicer roads. not necessarily paved, but graded and graveled on a regular basis. Please support this bill before only those in a four wheel drive vehicle can use our roads. thank you