

Aloha Chair Inouye and members of the Transportation and Energy committee,

My name is Quincy Bedoya and I am a second year law student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa William S. Richardson School of Law. I am in support of the intent of SB 1015 and humbly offer a suggestion that would help the bill better serve the people of Hawaii.

I recognize that an additional \$15 million annually will assist the Department of Transportation's (DOT) ability to construct and maintain the State Highway System and provide infrastructure enhancements throughout the State. This \$15 million however, should also be spread among the other four special funds that were originally meant to be served by the Environmental Response, Energy, and Food Security Tax.

As the law currently stands, the 60 cents is deposited into the State's general fund.¹ By reducing the proposed amount being allocated by half and dividing that evenly among three of the other four special funds, the legislature would still be creating a brand new revenue source generating an additional \$7.5 million annually for DOT. The other 30 cents would generate about \$2.5 million annually for the the energy security special fund, the energy systems development special fund, and the agricultural development and food security special fund. These additional funds would promote local agriculture production, clean energy projects and reduce our dependency on imported fossil fuels, thus moving the State closer to its clean energy goals.²

Again, this proposal would not take away from any of the more than \$260 million that has been deposited annually into the State Highway Fund annually over the last two years through the State Fuel Tax.³ An additional \$7.5 would still be deposited annually to help DOT and the other \$7.5 would be used to work towards reducing our carbon footprint. Given the impacts that climate change is projected to have on the health of Hawaii's residents, ecosystems, and freshwater resources,⁴ along with the Trump administration's policy on climate change,⁵ it is imperative that we do everything we can to ensure that we are best situated to face the challenges ahead.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my testimony,
Quincy Bedoya

¹ Department of Taxation, State of Hawaii, *Annual Report 2015-2016*, p. 15 (Dec. 2016) available at: <http://files.hawaii.gov/tax/stats/stats/annual/16annrpt.pdf>.

² HRS §§ 141-10; 201-12.8; 304A-2169.1.

³ DOT, *Annual Report 2015-2016*, p. 19.

⁴ University of Hawaii Sea Grant College Program, *Climate Change Impacts in Hawaii: A summary of climate change and its impacts to Hawaii's ecosystems and communities*, pp. 10-25 (2014) available at: <http://seagrant.soest.hawaii.edu/sites/default/files/publications/smfinal-hawaiiclimatechange.pdf>.

⁵ Timothy Cama, *Trump brings big changes to climate policies*, The Hill (Feb. 2, 2017)..