STAND. COM. REP. NO. 544 -20

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 14 ' 2020

RE: H.B. No. 1950

H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki Speaker, House of Representatives Thirtieth State Legislature Regular Session of 2020 State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Transportation, to which was referred H.B. No. 1950 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AN UNDERWATER TUNNEL AND SUPPORTING ROADWAYS TO PROVIDE A MORE DIRECT CONNECTION BETWEEN EWA AND DOWNTOWN HONOLULU,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Require the Department of Transportation to conduct a study on the feasibility of a private-public partnership to design, build, and operate an underwater tunnel for vehicular traffic between Ewa and downtown Honolulu; and
- (2) Authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds and appropriate funds for the study.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from six individuals. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from one individual. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Transportation.

Your Committee finds that the upcoming decades will bring tens of thousands of new homes to the leeward coast and nearby

areas of west Oahu. Traffic experts predict that vehicular congestion will double or triple as a result of the growth in population. Completion of Honolulu's rail transit project, potential implementation of toll roads, and other traffic mitigation efforts, while helpful, will not be enough to provide the additional transportation capacity for west Oahu residents.

Your Committee further finds that an underwater tunnel constructed at an appropriate location will provide residents of the leeward coast with a much more direct route to downtown Honolulu, which will reduce travel time and save transportation expenses. This measure tasks the Department of Transportation with looking at the feasibility of constructing an underwater tunnel.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Replacing the general obligation bond authorization with a general fund appropriation of an unspecified amount;
- (2) Changing the effective date to July 1, 2050, to encourage further discussion; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Transportation that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1950, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1950, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committee on Transportation,

HENRY J.C. AQUINO, Chair

State of Hawaii House of Representatives The THIRTIETH Legislature

HSCR 544-20

Record of Votes of the Committee on Transportation

HB 1950	Committee Referral: TRN, FIN		Date: 2/12/2020	
☐ The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: □ Pass, unamended (as is) □ Pass, with amendments (HD) □ Hold □ Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
TRN Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. AQUINO, Henry J.C. (C)				
2. HASHIMOTO, Troy N. (VC)				Elfenger er en elkere
3. BROWER, Tom				i de la Victoria
4. CULLEN, Ty J.K.				
4. COLLEN, IY J.K.				
5. HASHEM, Mark J.			Shank Area	
6. MATAYOSHI, Scot Z.				
7. WOODSON, Justin H.				
8. OKIMOTO, Val				
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TOTAL (8)	7		ĺ	<i>\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\</i>
The recommendation is: Adopted If joint referral, did not support recommendation. committee acronym(s)				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature:				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				