

OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRACTICES

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To: House Committee on Transportation

From: Cheryl Kakazu Park, Director

Date: February 12, 2021, 10:00 a.m.
Via Videoconference

Re: Testimony on H.B. No. 832
Relating to Roads

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill, which would create a Road Connectivity Task Force to assess and identify ways of improving road access in rural areas and subdivisions with poor roads. The Office of Information Practices (OIP) takes no position on the substance of this bill, but offers comments on a provision exempting the Task Force from the Sunshine Law and a **suggested amendment**.

On bill page 3, lines 17-18, the bill provides that the Task Force “shall be exempt from chapter 92, Hawaii Revised Statutes.” Part I of chapter 92 is the Sunshine Law, so the Task Force would be fully exempt from the Sunshine Law as well as the miscellany of other provisions contained in chapter 92. It is not clear why it would be necessary or advisable to completely exempt the Task Force from the Sunshine Law. The Sunshine Law’s purpose is to open up government policy discussions and decision-making to the public, and surely the issue to be considered by the Task Force is one of public interest. The residents of those rural areas and subdivisions that currently lack good road connectivity would surely be interested

in following the Task Force's progress and would have relevant ideas and information to contribute in public testimony.

OIP recommends that this Committee delete the chapter 92 exemption at bill page 3, lines 17-18. Alternatively, if there is a sound reason the Task Force will have trouble following the Sunshine Law that is not apparent on the face of the bill, OIP would be happy to assist the Committee in creating a permitted interaction or other partial Sunshine Law exception narrowly tailored to the Task Force's needs.

Thank you for considering OIP's comments and suggestion.

Aloha Hawaii State Representatives:

My name is Patti Pinto and I am representing myself. I urge you to support HB832 as the next step in implementing the work that has been done by the people of the Puna District over the course of the last nine years. It is no secret that the substandard subdivision roads of Puna are a problem that has existed for years and that the ongoing conditions are impacting public safety, employment, school attendance, emergency response and the economic status of Puna residents.

I have championed this issue over the years, first as the Chairperson of the Puna Community Development Plan Action Committee and its Subcommittee on Puna Road Connectivity and Emergency Response and later on the Hawaii County Council Ad-Hoc Committee on Puna Connectivity and for the last four years on Hawaii County Mayor's Committee on Puna Roads Connectivity.

The studies have been done and the community has contributed their mana'o. We know what the priorities are and that it is not only feasible, but astoundingly inexpensive to bring these points of connectivity into existence.

What we need is the will to get the job done and we need support from our State to ensure that the County, Community Associations, and Puna population have the support and tools necessary to bring these projects from the drafting table to boots on the ground implementation.

I am currently working on the Hawaii County Kilauea Recovery Team. What the people of Puna have stated unanimously is that "The road to recovery is ROADS". We cannot hope to have sustained recovery in Puna if we cannot actually reach all of our residents. Every aspect of our lives is impacted by our roads. If we are unable to get to work or school because the main highway is closed and there are NO alternate routes through the subdivisions, employment and school suffer. The principal at Kea'au High School reports that attendance at school during rain is deeply impacted by impassable roads and no alternate ways to get out of the subdivisions.

We have done the work, now it is time to get the job done. Please support HB832 as the next logical step in implementing the Puna Roads Connectivity Project that is so desperately needed by our population.

Mahalo



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SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
Thursday, February 12, 2021, 10 am, State Capitol Room 423
HB 832
Relating to Roads

TESTIMONY

Douglas Meller, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

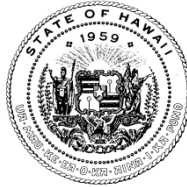
Chair Aquino and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii requests amendment of HB 832.

The League has no expertise or position concerning creation of a task force "... to assess and identify ways of improving road access in rural areas and [county authorized] subdivisions with substandard roads. . . ." However, we request amendment of Section 2 of this bill so that the proposed road connectivity task force is subject to Chapter 92, Hawaii Revised Statutes. There is no compelling justification to exempt the proposed task force from the Sunshine Law.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



TESTIMONY BY:

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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
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February 12, 2021
10:00 A.M.
State Capitol, Teleconference

H.B. 832
RELATING TO ROADS

House Committee on Transportation

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **submits concerns** for H.B. 832, which establishes a road connectivity task force to assess and identify ways of improving road access in rural areas and in subdivisions with substandard roads, and requires a report to the legislature.

There is an existing process in place to evaluate the needs of the transportation system, including safety, system preservation, system efficiency, economic vitality, connectivity, mobility, modal integration, and resiliency. This process is the federally required statewide transportation planning process. As part of this process, the DOT develops long range plans and coordinates with other transportation agencies, including metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) and county Departments of Public Works, government stakeholders, the public, and non-government stakeholders. MPOs are also required to develop long range plans. The DOT's and MPOs long range land plans each assess needs, establish priorities, and guide investment decisions.

If reporting is requested on concerns in the bill, the DOT can provide information without the task force.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

HB-832

Submitted on: 2/12/2021 7:50:09 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Charlene Dierking	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

As stated:

The legislature finds that the State has some of the strongest gun safety laws in the nation, and in 2016 Hawai'i received an A-minus rating from the Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence. Additionally, Hawai'i had the lowest number of gun deaths per capita among the states in 2017, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Why ban more firearms when Hawaii is doing well with very few gun deaths? Go after the criminals, not the firearms. The 2nd amendment in our U.S. Constitution still exists!