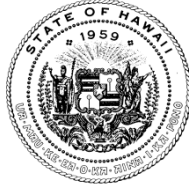


DAVID Y. IGE
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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
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February 5, 2021
10:00 A.M.
State Capitol, Teleconference

H.B. 1055
RELATING TO HIGHWAYS

House Committee on Transportation

The Department of Transportation (DOT) strongly **supports** H.B. 1055 which authorizes the DOT director to acquire real property in the name of the State of Hawai'i for roads and streets, without review or approval by the board of land and natural resources. The legislation will also recommend that the DOT be granted jurisdiction immediately upon acquisition of such real property, thereby eliminating the necessity of an executive order to transfer jurisdiction of the property from the Department of Land and Natural Resources to the DOT and reduce the amount of time to acquire the real property.

The DOT Highways division provides a critical network of highways and roads that serves Hawai'i's communities, land uses, and economy. Federal aid funds are pumped into various projects so long as they keep moving through the project delivery process. Acquisitions that are deferred due to Land Board approval delay project delivery and cause obstructions in the federal pipeline. The division strives for transparency by posting progress reports on major highway projects to its website, presenting information on future projects at neighborhood board meetings, and encourages community feedback.

Exempting the DOT from review or approval by the Land Board will expedite the project delivery process and effectively utilize federal aid money to give the Highways division full management and control of the properties necessary to improve our public roads and streets in a more timely fashion.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.