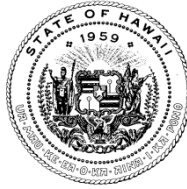


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



TESTIMONY BY:

JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDUARDO P. MANGLALLAN
PATRICK H. MCCAIN
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN

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

February 2, 2022
10:30 A.M.
State Capitol, Teleconference

H.B. 1632
RELATING TO HIGHWAYS

House Committee on Transportation

The Department of Transportation (DOT) provides **comments** on this measure that seeks to set vehicle weight limits for Hana Highway and Haleakala Highway and establish user fees for access to Hana Highway and Haleakala Highway.

The DOT currently restricts vehicles that weigh over 10 tons from traversing Hana Highway, and further notes that there are no bridges on Haleakala Highway that require a weight limitation.

The proposed user fees may be construed as a toll. If the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) considers the implementation of user fees as described in H.B. 1632 a toll, then there may be limitations and requirements on the use of federal aid for projects on these routes. Additionally, operations of a toll road present statutory requirements on the use of revenues from the toll and a need for annual audits of toll collections.

Approximately six months would be required to further research if this action will be allowed by FHWA and, if so, to investigate whether the various requirements would make it feasible to pursue.

The DOT also request clarification of the route included in this bill. The characteristics and length described for Haleakala Highway do not match the physical attributes of the roadway.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Council Chair
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
Tasha Kama

Councilmembers
Gabe Johnson
Kelly Takaya King
Michael J. Molina
Tamara Paltin
Shane M. Sinenci
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura



Director of Council Services
Traci N. T. Fujita, Esq.

Deputy Director of Council Services
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

February 1, 2022

TO: The Honorable Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair
House Committee on Transportation

FROM: Michael J. Molina 
Councilmember, Maui County Council

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 2, 2022; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1632, RELATING TO HIGHWAYS**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure that will address funding and infrastructure concerns for Hana and Haleakala Highways. Establishing a special fund to improve these world famous highways will help ensure appropriate maintenance is sustained for the long-term future.

The Maui County Council has not taken a formal position on this measure. I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I support this measure for the following reasons:

1. This measure would establish a new funding mechanism for development and improvement Hana and Haleakala Highways.
2. This measure would protect residents, local businesses, and visitors against these essential highways from falling into disrepair.

For these reasons, I **support** this measure.

HB-1632

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 7:39:54 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/2/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura	Maui County Council	Support	No

Comments:

The visitor industry is an important component of our economy. This bill finds come parity for safety of our residents and visitors by setting weight limitations for operators and rental veicles and established a sustainable funding source to maintain and improve Hana and Haleakala Hghway.

I support this !

Council Chair
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
Tasha Kama

Councilmembers
Gabe Johnson
Kelly Takaya King
Michael J. Molina
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February 1, 2022

TO: Honorable Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair
House Committee on Transportation

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair

DATE: February 1, 2022

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT OF HB 1632, RELATING TO HIGHWAYS**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to ensure the safety of residents and visitors of Maui by setting weight limitations for tour operators and rental vehicles and establishing a sustainable funding source to maintain and improve the Hana and Haleakala Highways.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I SUPPORT this measure for the following reasons:

1. As an aging transportation artery for East Maui with many bridges, Hana Highway has become increasingly unsafe to traverse at many locations.
2. Haleakala Highway, the only access to Haleakala Summit, is 37 miles long and is comprised of one lane running in either direction, with no guardrails, little or soft shoulders along steep cliff sides, and frequent switchbacks.
3. The constant use of these highways by tour operators and rental vehicles cause significant damage to the roads and infrastructure.
4. Unsafe conditions on the Hana and Haleakala Highways have manifested in delays in the delivery of life-saving services, extended commutes for residents, accidents, and disputes between residents and visitors.
5. A sustainable funding source is needed to maintain and improve the Hana and Haleakala Highways.

For the foregoing reasons, I **SUPPORT** this measure.

February 1, 2022
Page 2

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Council Chair
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez

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Tasha Kama

Councilmembers
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Director of Council Services
Traci N. T. Fujita, Esq.

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February 1, 2022

Hawaii State House of Representatives
Transportation Committee

Dear Chair Aquino & Committee Members

SUBJECT: RE: H.B. NO. 1632

As Maui County Council member representing East Maui, I am in support of H.B. NO. 1632 which is intended to provide additional mitigation measures relative to traffic on Hana Highway and Haleakala Highway as well as an additional funding source for maintenance and repairs.

Hana Highway has more than 50 bridges built more than one hundred years ago with weight limits. There are also numerous culverts which have no weight limits and are severely affected by larger, heavier vehicles and which require regular maintenance and repair.

Funding is critical for regular repair and maintenance including paving, rockfall mitigation, drainage, guardrail repair and replacement as well as the replacement of the reflective lighting in the center and on the sides of the highway. General weed control, tree trimming and landscape maintenance are ongoing necessary safety issues.

We want to be mindful that any legislation passed does not negatively impact Federal funding for Hana Highway as these funds are a major resource for this purpose.

Mahalo for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shane M. Sinenci". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S".

Shane M. Sinenci, Councilmember
East Maui Representative

cc: Rep. Linda Clark, Rep. Tina Wildbert, Senator Lynn DeCoite



February 2, 2022

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
ON HB 1632 RELATING TO HIGHWAYS**

Aloha Chair Aquino, and committee members. I am Gareth Sakakida Managing Director of the Hawaii Transportation Association (HTA) with over 350 members involved with the commercial ground transportation industry.

HTA opposes concepts related to paying for access over public roads that vehicles already pay taxes for. It is not the fault of the entities addressed in the bill that government has not allocated appropriate amounts for the roads in question.

This sets a negative precedence for public roads throughout Hawaii using this methodology to obtain additional funds.

There is ever present pressure to target tour vehicles as a negative factor in visitor impacts to areas, where in reality it is a mode that reduces the amount of congestion as opposed to a like number of people in automobiles. Tour vehicles provide appropriate destination stops and cultural education for their passengers.

Furthermore, each county has the authority to limit vehicle size and weight for specific routes based on safety concerns.

Mahalo.

LATE

HB-1632

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 10:55:40 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/2/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mary Ann Kahana	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am so elated that this type of bill has come to the forefront and it is long awaiting for such initiative to occur to manage the roads and increase regulation of the roads. I would like to support this bill because the Hana road needs repair. So many businesses are making profit with visiting Hana, but the locals who have to endure these people suffers. We need to leave at certain time of the day to get to and from our home. What use to take an hour and half is now taking 3 hours. We ask for support of our visitors as you make your business profitable off of Hana, we ask of you to give back. Without the paved roads, your business in Hana would be non-existent. Without upgrading the roads, your safety is questionable.

LATE

HB-1632

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 11:24:07 AM
Testimony for TRN on 2/2/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Claudia Kalaola	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in favor of setting weight limitations for tour operators, rental vehicles and ALL vehicles that are a threat to our road and bridges. I am in favor of user fees for tour companies and rental vehicles for the Hana Highway, and Haleakala Highway.

I am in favor of depositing of these User Fees into a special fund, and authorize the fund to be used for improvements to Hana Highway, and Haleakala Highway.