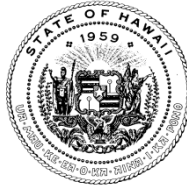


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



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

March 23, 2022

11:05 A.M.

State Capitol, Conference Room 423/Teleconference

H.C.R 29 / H.R. 25
A HOLISTIC MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR HANA HIGHWAY

House Committee on Transportation

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** the intent of this resolution that encourages us to work with various groups to develop a holistic management plan that will ensure Hana Highway is properly maintained and is safe for residents and visitors.

The DOT has collaborated with various stakeholders over the years including the Maui Police Department, the Department of Land and Natural Resources, the Hawaii Tourism Authority, and the County of Maui to make improvements in safety and traffic flow, and to preserve our natural resources to ensure the long-term viability of the Hana Highway.

The DOT recognizes the challenges associated with Hana Highway and looks forward to continuing our relationship with the various stakeholders, especially the Maui Police Department in enforcement of laws.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

TESTIMONY OF
JAMES P. GRIFFIN, Ph.D.
CHAIR, PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
STATE OF HAWAII

TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION

March 23, 2022
11:05 a.m.

Chair Aquino and Members of the Committee:

MEASURE: H.C.R. No. 29 / H.R. 25

TITLE: ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK WITH STAKEHOLDERS TO DEVELOP A HOLISTIC MANAGEMENT PLAN THAT WILL ENSURE HANA HIGHWAY IS PROPERLY MAINTAINED AND IS SAFE FOR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS.

POSITION:

The Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) offers the following comments for consideration.

COMMENTS:

The Commission appreciates the intent of these resolutions to ensure that Hana Highway is properly maintained and is safe for residents and visitors.

The Commission, through its authority in Chapter 271, HRS, investigates complaints surrounding motor carriers, enforces regulations, and assesses penalties as appropriate. The Commission is planning a robust enforcement presence as tourism activity is expected to increase towards pre-pandemic levels this summer.

The Commission has recently partnered with DLNR to ensure that only licensed motor carriers are able to operate at Waianapanapa State Park. This partnership has been successful in reducing the number of unlicensed vehicles operating in the area. The Commission will continue to work with DLNR, other agencies, and local communities to ensure that motor carrier law is properly enforced.

The Commission notes that it is willing to cooperate with the Department of Transportation, through the Commission's Maui District Representative, to assist in developing solutions for management of Hana Highway.

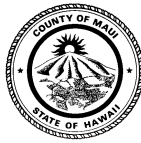
Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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



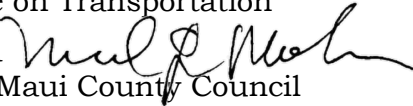
Director of Council Services
Traci N. T. Fujita, Esq.

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

March 23, 2022

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

FROM: Michael J. Molina 
Councilmember, Maui County Council

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF MARCH 23, 2022; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HCR 29, ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK WITH STAKEHOLDERS TO DEVELOP A HOLISTIC MANAGEMENT PLAN THAT WILL ENSURE HANA HIGHWAY IS PROPERLY MAINTAINED AND IS SAFE FOR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure that will address the significant management issues surrounding the heavy traffic on Hana Highway. A management plan of action is desperately needed to ensure Hana Highway's long-term viability and safety for residents and visitors alike.

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

I support this measure for the following reasons:

1. This measure can provide Hana Highway with a solution to the significant public safety concerns putting all users of Hana and Haleakala Highways at risk
2. A management plan will give the public and visitors assurances any deferred maintenance is adequately documented and addressed before reaching failure.
3. This measure is a solution to the significant public safety concerns putting all users of Hana and Haleakala Highways at risk if an organized management plan is never put in place.

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

HCR-29

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 9:51:28 AM

Testimony for TRN on 3/23/2022 11:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thomas Bacon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support HCR29. It is necessary to bring back safety and the quality of life for those of us who depend on the Hāna Highway. The degradation of the Hāna Highway experience has accelerated at a breakneck pace in the last five years, particularly during peak times (pretty much a lot of the daytime hours).

Key problems include:

- Almost total disregard for "No Parking" signs, and often common sense. Fully blocked roadways due to illegal parkers ("I'm just going to take a quick picture from the bridge") are often the norm. There is almost no enforcement: MPD claims it can't enforce the parking because it's a state highway. The state doesn't even respond or even pretend to care. Not only does this result in aggravation, but often causes a roadblock situation that takes a lot of time and effort to unblock. Large delivery trucks, school buses and ambulances are often caught in these situations. Urgent medical transport is delayed, and can result in life threatening situations. This isn't hyperbole; it's what's happening.
- Some tourist drivers show no respect for other drivers, never pulling over to let others pass, even intentionally blocking attempts to pass at the few safe places.
- Tourists who respect the signage and common sense, are disappointed when they are unable to stop at places they were unaware are now "no parking."
- Private property is not respected by many. Lack of any enforcement of the "no parking" zones and "no trespassing" areas encourages those visitors who might be more respectful to jump into the pool of others who ignore the rules.
- Some people think the highway is their toilet. Not just a urinal, to be blunt.

That is just a few problems off the top of my head. A coordinated effort to address the problems on the Hāna Highway is necessary to clearly identify the problems and propose some workable solutions that result in a better tourist experience and a better quality of life for those of us who drive the highway regularly, and live along it.