



**TESTIMONY BY:**

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

April 22, 2022

9:30 A.M.

State Capitol, Conference Room 225 / Teleconference

**H.C.R 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**

Senate Committee on Transportation

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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 partnered 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  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
TRANSPORTATION

April 22, 2022  
9:30 a.m.

Chair Lee and Members of the Committee:

**MEASURE:** H.C.R. No. 29

**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 this resolution 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.



**TESTIMONY TO:  
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
TRANSPORTATION  
Friday, April 22, 2022; 9:30 am**

**RE: H.C.R. NO. 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.**

Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye and Members of the Committees:

My name is Cheryl Vasconcellos and I am the Executive Director of Hana Health a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) providing essential primary care to patients residing in one of the most remote locations in the state. I am testifying in SUPPORT of this Continuing Resolution.

Hana Health has served the people of Hana, Maui for almost twenty-five years. We are the only primary health care provider in the district requiring that we provide urgent/emergent care 24/7 in addition to routine health, dental and behavioral health services.

The volume of traffic on the Hana Highway has increased substantially over the past several years primarily due to the promotion of the Hana Highway and Hana District as a visitor destination. The impacts to the Hana community are numerous and far reaching particularly with regards to the resident population's ability to access needed services on the "other side" of the island. What used to be a four hour round trip, has become a five and a half hour round trip due to the amount of traffic on the Highway during certain hours of each and every day.

For Hana Health patients accessing specialty care not available in Hana, or for women about to go into labor, traveling the highway has become particularly burdensome. For emergency vehicles transporting Hana Health patients to Maui Memorial Medical Center, this additional delay can also be life threatening. Hana has only one ambulance serving the district. The longer the ambulance is on the road, the longer Hana Health and the Hana community is without emergency medical support.

A holistic management plan for the care and maintenance of the Hana Highway is important to the safety of visitors and residents alike. We urge your support of this important resolution. Thank you.

**HCR-29**

Submitted on: 4/19/2022 4:09:16 PM

Testimony for TRS on 4/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
William Bailey	Testifying for AMR	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

American Medical Response in support of HCR29. Mahalo!

**HCR-29**

Submitted on: 4/21/2022 8:58:26 AM

Testimony for TRS on 4/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dawn Lono	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this effort, however, would like to add 2 additional organizations to coordinate this effort: #1 Hana Business Council and #2 Hana Community Association.

Mahalo for this effort,

Dawn L. Lono