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**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097**

February 9, 2023
3:00 P.M.
State Capitol, Room 224 & Videoconference

**S.B. 1243
RELATING TO TRAFFIC CONTROL**

Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **comments** S.B. 1243 to authorize all state and county traffic project contractors to make changes, as necessary, to traffic flow and safety or mitigation efforts during severe traffic congestion at no additional cost to the state.

Our concerns are as follows:

1. Section 264-8 H.R.S. provides the authority for how work is performed on state highways through specification, standard and procedures.

Section 19-127.1-13 H.A.R. requires the Director of Transportation to approve all work affecting traffic on new or existing public highways, streets, and roads to offer the least possible obstruction and inconvenience to vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

Revising contract specifications would be the appropriate means to address traffic impacts from construction projects.

2. Depending on changes, contractors may incur additional costs beyond original contract price. S.B. 1243 may lead to contractors inflating traffic control bid prices. When necessary, contract change orders should be allowed to compensate contractors for these additional costs.
3. The DOT already works with contractors to adjust work zones to minimize traffic impacts.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

SB-1243

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 10:40:12 PM
Testimony for TCA on 2/9/2023 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beth Anderson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a resident directly effected by the traffic situation created by the Kalapawai roundabout construction, I support SB 1243. This has been a fluid situation with various stages of the project requiring different traffic configurations to move traffic through the area as smoothly as possible. The initial traffic route that was set up when construction began resulted in a traffic nightmare with long lines of traffic in and out of the Lanikai area. There were wait times up to a half hour or more for me to exit my neighborhood in order to get to Kailua town center and beyond. Thankfully, complaints to reps resulted in changes that brought solutions to that problem.

Since then, the traffic routes have had to change again to keep traffic moving during construction and this has been a great relief and successful. The State Department of Transportation needs to be able to amend and change traffic patterns promptly as needed during these construction projects so residents aren't subject to these traffic nightmares.

Contractors should absolutely be prohibited from charging additional fees to amend traffic flow and safety and they should be required to make these changes immediately to mitigate traffic problems and delays. The contactors on the project in my neighborhood made terrible choices on day one that were unsustainable for a project that is scheduled to last almost two years. Traffic was unnecessarily tied up for miles in each direction. The Department of Transportation should be responsible for making the final decisions and determinations on all necessary changes to traffic flow and mitigation.

Thank you for considering my opinions.