



EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

Deputy Directors
Nā Hope Luna Ho'okele
DREANALEE K. KALILI
TAMMY L. LEE
ROBIN K. SHISHIDO

STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | KA 'OIHANA ALAKAU
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

February 13, 2024
3:02 P.M.

State Capitol, Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

S.B. 2893
RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION

Senate Committee on Water and Land

The Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) **supports** this bill which intends to increase traffic safety by allowing the director of transportation to exempt certain ground transportation facility projects from historic preservation review and the environmental impact statement law, subject to certain conditions.

The HDOT appreciates the Legislature's concern for the safety of all users of the highway system and for seeking to streamline the historic and environmental review portions of the project development process. The HDOT notes that projects considered a Federal undertaking, those that utilize federal funds or require a federal approval, will still need to follow requirements of federal law, including Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and National Environmental Policy Act.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

SB-2893

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 3:24:06 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/13/2024 3:02:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Testifying for Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition and Climate Protectors Hawaii	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

While we appreciate the bill's intent to streamline transportation projects, we regretfully must OPPOSE this bill.

As a former Deputy Attorney General that represented the Environmental Council and the then Office of Environmental Quality Control, I testify that the historic preservation and environmental review laws in HRS chapters 6E and 343 protect important interests that should not be ignored by DOT.

Please hold this bill!

Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition and Climate Protectors Hawaii (by Ted Bohlen)

SB-2893

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 2:18:18 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/13/2024 3:02:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keoni Shizuma	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the committee,

I stand in opposition to SB2893.

While I understand that the bill is directed to projects that are on previously disturbed areas and do not require excavation of soil greater than 24 inches, that still leaves open the possibilities of previously disturbed areas that did not disturb down 24 inches previously, thus there is still a high possibility of the area having archaeological sites or burial sites. I also feel that, projects could also have an environmental impact and that should be studied as well. Due the possibility of projects being a greater disturbance than previous projects on the same site, as well as the possibility of having environmental impacts, I am opposed to this bill and do not think these projects should be exempt from historic preservation review and environmental impact statement law.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Keoni Shizuma

SB-2893

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 11:32:30 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/13/2024 3:02:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Regina Gregory	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

oppose