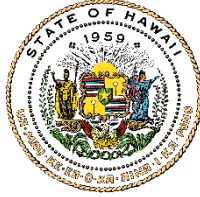


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT

RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE  
FIRST DEPUTY

DEAN D. UYENO  
ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

Testimony of  
DAWN N. S. CHANG  
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on  
FINANCE

Friday, February 23, 2024  
11:30 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 2175, HOUSE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO THE KAAWA-HAULA COMMUNITY-BASED LONG-RANGE  
TRANSPORTATION PLAN

House Bill 2175, House Draft 1 proposes to appropriate funds for and requires the involvement of community members and organizations in the development of a community-based long-range transportation plan for the Ka'a'awa and Hau'ula communities. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports this bill.**

The Department strongly supports all initiatives for community-engaged planning to address the imminent threat to the safety and economic well-being of communities impacted by sea level rise and coastal erosion. Kamehameha Highway is experiencing wave overwash and ongoing erosion which threatens the integrity of the roadway, resulting in emergency measures to protect this vital infrastructure at the expense of beach health throughout the Ko'olauloa Moku. Department staff looks forward to working with the Hawai'i Department of Transportation (HDOT) and impacted communities faced with difficult choices which place natural resource protection and the maintenance of transportation infrastructure at odds.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this bill.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



TESTIMONY BY:

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 23, 2024

11:30 a.m.

State Capitol, RM 308 Videoconference

**H.B. 2175 H.D. 1**

**RELATING TO THE KAAAWA-HAUULA COMMUNITY-BASED LONG-RANGE  
TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

House Committee on Finance

The Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) **supports H.B. 2175** which appropriates funds for the HDOT and requires the involvement of community members and organizations in the development of a community-based long-range transportation plan for the Kaaawa and Hauula communities but would like to offer **comments**.

Unavoidably, climate change, sea level rise, and coastal erosion pose a constant risk to the integrity of our vital coastal Kamehameha Highway, which is the only route connecting the windward communities of Kaneohe, Kahaluu, Kaaawa, Punaluu, Hauula and Laie. Kamehameha Highway has been undermined multiple times at various locations due to wave action. The coastal erosion is severe in Kaaawa and Hauula, where Kamehameha Highway is in very close proximity to the shoreline.

To keep Kamehameha Highway operational and avoid cutting off highway access, HDOT performed many emergency and short to mid-term fixes to address the undermining of the Highway. HDOT also has a large mid-term (25 years design-life) project for the Kualoa, Kaaawa, Punaluu and Hauula communities which will address approximately 3 miles of the critical erosion areas along Kamehameha Highway.

We understand that these projects are not the long-term solution for the windward communities when it comes to coastal erosion. However, these projects can provide protection to Kamehameha Highway while the various government departments, communities, and other stakeholders get together and develop a long-range transportation plan. HDOT supports both the community-based and long-range approach to transportation planning that this measure proposes.

However, HDOT proposes to extend the due date of the Kaaawa- Hauula community-based long-range transportation plan to the legislature to no later than December 31, 2026, due to the complexity of the long-range plan process and the coordination needed between various government agencies and stakeholders. HDOT estimates the community plan to cost \$1M.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.