



**TESTIMONY BY:**

JADE T. BUTAY  
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors  
LYNN A.S. ARAKI-REGAN  
DEREK J. CHOW  
ROSS M. HIGASHI  
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN

**LATE**

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

February 12, 2020  
11:00 AM  
State Capitol, Room 423

**H.B. 1950**  
**RELATING TO AN UNDERWATER TUNNEL AND SUPPORTING ROADWAYS TO**  
**PROVIDE A MORE DIRECT CONNECTION BETWEEN EWA AND DOWNTOWN**  
**HONOLULU**

House Committee on Transportation

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The Department of Transportation offers **comments** to H.B. 1950. We have serious concerns regarding the feasibility of this effort due to:

- Jurisdiction of the right of way that would need to be acquired.
- Potential national security concerns related to the location of the proposed route being in close proximity to Hickam Air Force Base and Pearl Harbor Naval Station. All potential routes for the tunnel would overlap with the Pearl Harbor Channel.
- Cost and construction feasibility. Using estimates from similar projects, such as the Alaskan Way Viaduct tunnel in Seattle and Central Artery/Tunnel Project in Boston, cost estimates for this project range between \$10 billion and \$35 billion for a 5-mile tunnel.
- Challenges in connecting the termini of the tunnel with existing roadway facilities in Ewa and Honolulu.
- Potential for the tunnel to create gridlock at its termini due to the increased flow of traffic being introduced at those locations.

In general, we don't believe this is a viable solution. Spending time studying this takes valuable resources away from addressing priorities that will improve safety, upgrade the condition of the system, increase capacity and reduce congestion, and improve access for bicyclists and pedestrians.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**HB-1950**

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 1:06:45 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/12/2020 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tom Berg	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Once you filter out all of the politics in this- remove all the spin, and actually examine the intent, this is the only viable, sound, feasible, and sane act you could advance that could save us from gridlock that is upon us.

The only ones against this are of the mindset of Senator Kalani English - who is against the private sector building that of which government cannot afford to build. End user pays!

Legalize toll roads dammit- and stop expecting government (tax payers) to provide the fix. This option - HB1950, could blossom into a thriving economy for all- if you kill this bill, you killed the economy, stupid.

**HB-1950**

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 4:26:15 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/12/2020 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lexie campos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Aquino, Vice-Chair Hashimoto, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lexie Campos and I am a high school student living in Ewa Beach. I stand in strong support of HB1950, which would severely cut the commute time from Ewa to Honolulu.

Each day, I have to leave my house at 4:50 am so that I can get to my school in Downtown Honolulu on time (I attend a private school). I have choir practice at 7:00 am, and I tutor elementary school children until 7 pm. However, it takes more than two hours to get to my school every day, and, taking into consideration the time it takes to get back also, the whole commute is vicious, stressful, and extremely long.

I have heard multiple stories from my neighbors about waking up at 2 or 3 am, especially those with families, to make it to their schools and jobs in Honolulu. Having an underwater tunnel would greatly help the thousands of residents that live in Ewa. I urge you to pass HB1950, for the sake of the people we call 'ohana.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Lexie

**HB-1950**

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 8:54:18 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/12/2020 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Bill Li	Individual	Support	No

**Comments:**

From: Miguel Rivera { } To: House TRN committee

Bill: Testimony in Support of HB1950

Date: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 - 11:00 AM

Place: Conference Room 423

Aloha Rep. Henry Aquino, Chair of TRN and Committee members

Hello, my name is Miguel Rivera and I'm in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 1950 which request the DOT to conduct a study on the feasibility of a private-public partnership to design, build, and operate an underwater tunnel for vehicle traffic to provide a more direct connection between West Oahu, Leeward Coast/Ewa and downtown Honolulu along with the expansion of roadways as necessary to maximize use of the tunnel.

The study shall include estimates on the appropriate toll fees for use of the tunnel if a tunnel is feasible. The study shall be submitted to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the regular session of 2022.

The upcoming decades will bring tens of thousands of new homes to the leeward coast and nearby areas of west Oahu. Traffic experts predict that vehicular congestion will double or triple because of the growth in population. Completion of Honolulu's rail transit project, potential implementation of toll roads, and other traffic mitigation efforts, while helpful, will not be enough to provide the additional transportation capacity for west Oahu residents.

The underwater tunnel constructed at an appropriate location will provide residents of the Leeward Coast and West Oahu with a much more direct route to downtown Honolulu, which will reduce travel time and save transportation expenses. In addition, it will take away almost half of the current traffic on the H1 freeway thus expediting traffic from the H2 freeway.

In the past, United States Navy did not oppose the construction of an underwater tunnel because naval vessels commonly traverse underwater tunnels on the east coast of the United States and throughout the world.

The construction by a private-public partnership to design, build, and operate an underwater tunnel for vehicle traffic along with the expansion of roadways as necessary to maximize use of the tunnel will provide a more direct connection between West Oahu/Ewa and downtown Honolulu.

There is to be appropriated out of the general obligation bond revenues issued pursuant to section 3 the sum of \$1,500,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021.

Thank you for your consideration to pass this worthy and badly needed bill.

**HB-1950**

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 4:12:13 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/12/2020 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Fiona Mata	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Aquino, Vice-Chair Hashimoto, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Fiona Mata and I am a veterinarian living in Ewa Beach. I stand in strong support of HB1950, which would severely cut the commute time from Ewa to Honolulu.

Each day, I have to leave my house at 5:30 am so that I can get to my workplace at 7:45 am. It is absolutely critical that I come to work on time because I have a tight schedule for treating my patients. However, it takes more than two hours to get to work daily, and, taking into consideration the time it takes to get back also, the whole commute is vicious, stressful, and extremely long.

I have heard multiple stories from Ewa residents about waking up at 2 or 3 am, especially those with families, to make it to their schools and jobs in Honolulu. Having an underwater tunnel would greatly help the thousands of residents that live in Ewa. I urge you to pass HB1950, for the sake of the people we call 'ohana.

Mahalo,

Fiona

**HB-1950**

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 8:23:26 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/12/2020 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lynn Robinson-Onderko	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-1950**

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 5:53:43 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/12/2020 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please oppose HB1950. An underwater tunnel is the last thing Hawaii's fragile marine ecosystem needs. The money would be better spent on mass transit.

Thank you for your time.

Andrea Quinn

Kihei, Maui

**HB-1950**

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 4:21:03 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/12/2020 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Eduard Rivera	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Hashimoto, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Eduard Rivera and I am a yardman living in Ewa Beach. I stand in strong support of HB1950, which would severely cut the commute time from Ewa to Honolulu.

Each day, I have to leave my house at 5:30 am so that I can get to the different houses that I have to work on on time. It is absolutely critical that I come to work on time because I get paid by the hour, and if I am late, then my bosses will not consider my starting hour. However, it takes more than two hours to get to work daily, and, taking into consideration the time it takes to get back also, the whole commute is vicious, stressful, and extremely long.

I have heard multiple stories from Ewa residents about waking up at 2 or 3 am, especially those with families, to make it to their schools and jobs in Honolulu. Having an underwater tunnel would greatly help the thousands of residents that live in Ewa. I urge you to pass HB1950, for the sake of the people we call 'ohana.

Thank you,

Eduard