

WRITTEN ONLY

TESTIMONY BY GEORGINA K. KAWAMURA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 863

February 9, 2009

RELATING TO ESTABLISHING A COUNTY TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT
INFRASTRUCTURE REVOLVING FUND

House Bill No. 863 amends Chapter 36, Hawaii Revised Statutes, by adding a new section to establish the County Infrastructure Development Revolving Loan Fund to be administered by the Director of Finance. The fund will be used to provide no-interest loans to the counties for the development of infrastructure projects to expedite the building of transit-oriented development.

We object to this bill because it may require general fund appropriations to start-up the revolving fund at a time when we are trying to reduce general fund expenditures to cope with decreasing revenues and increasing fund deficits. In addition, these no-interest loans are essentially grants to the counties and the decision to fund certain projects should more appropriately be made by the Legislature.



**HB 863 Relating to Establishing a County Transit Oriented
Development Infrastructure Revolving Fund**
Committee on Transportation

February 9, 2009
309

9:00 am

Room

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs supports the purpose and intent of HB 863.

The growing affordable housing problem is one of the most critical issues faced by our communities, especially our Native Hawaiian communities. This issue seems to have many of our families struggling to find adequate housing near their place of employment in the urban cores in order to make ends meet.

Urban cores with mixed-use housing need the affordable units because the jobs are there and until neighborhoods are built, instead of subdivisions, families need to be where the jobs are. Transit-oriented development can be another opportunity to get a citizens living near an area that will get them to their place of employment by keeping their transportation costs to a minimum

OHA recognizes that physical solutions by themselves will not solve social and economic problems, but neither can economic vitality, community stability, and environmental health be sustained without a coherent and supportive physical framework. Transit-oriented development will provide one of the many physical frameworks needed for Hawai'i's residents.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide this testimony.

BIA-HAWAII

BUILDING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

February 9, 2009

Representative Joseph Souki, Chair
Committee on Water, Land & Ocean Resources
Conference Room 309
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Representative Souki:

Subject: **House Bill No. HB 863 Relating to Establishing a County Transit Oriented Development Infrastructure Revolving Fund**

I am Karen Nakamura, Chief Executive Officer of the Building Industry Association of Hawaii (BIA-Hawaii). Chartered in 1955, the Building Industry Association of Hawaii is a professional trade organization affiliated with the National Association of Home Builders, representing the building industry and its associates. BIA-Hawaii takes a leadership role in unifying and promoting the interests of the industry to enhance the quality of life for the people of Hawaii.

BIA-HAWAII is in strong support of HB 863.

The bill proposes to create a no-interest loan revolving fund to provide loans to the counties for infrastructure improvements that support transit-oriented development.

The City and County of Honolulu is about to embark on the largest Capital Improvement Project in the States' history. The Honolulu High Capacity Transit Project will reshape the landscape of Honolulu for the next century. The bill properly recognizes that the key to allowing for more compact and dense development in and around the transit corridor is to provide the necessary infrastructure capacity to accommodate the planned future growth in the area. More importantly, providing the infrastructure capacity at the same time the transit project is being constructed will minimize the impact on the public along the transit route as the construction activity will be done once, not twice.

We ask for your favorable consideration of HB 863.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our views with you.



Executive Vice President & Chief Executive Officer
BIA-Hawaii



February 9, 2009

Representative Joseph Souki, Chair
Committee on Water, Land & Ocean Resources
Conference Room 309
9:00 a.m.
State Capitol

Subject: **House Bill No. HB 863 Relating to Establishing a County
Transit Oriented Development Infrastructure Revolving Fund**

Chair Souki, Vice Chair Awana and members of the committee:

My name is Jim Tollefson, President of the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii. The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii works on behalf of its members and the entire business community to:

- Improve the state's economic climate
- Help businesses thrive

The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii is in strong support of HB 863.

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Conference Room 309
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Representative Souki:

Subject: **House Bill No. HB 863 Relating to Establishing a County Transit Oriented Development Infrastructure Revolving Fund**

My name is Dean Uchida, Vice President of the Hawaii Developers' Council (HDC). We represent over 200 members and associates in development-related industries. The mission of Hawaii Developers' Council (HDC) is to educate developers and the public regarding land, construction and development issues through public forums, seminars and publications.

It is also the goal of HDC to promote high ethics and community responsibility in real estate development and related trades and professions.

The HDC is in strong support of HB 863.

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