

# LATE TESTIMONY

February 9, 2009

State Legislature  
Transportation Committee  
Joe Souki, Chair

Re: HB866

Aloha Transportation Chair Souki and Vice Chair Awana and members of the committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Kapolei community, in strong support of HB866, relating to HOV lane use. As Chair of the Kapolei Neighborhood Board, we received numerous complaints and concerns from residents regarding traffic and lack of simple changes to improve the traffic situation. This is a bill which would be very beneficial for all leeward residents having to commute in traffic and without much cost. When there is an incident on the road which closes a travel lane, allowing individuals to use the HOV/zipper lane, regardless of the number of persons on board, can make a huge difference in time spent on the road.

At present the HOV lane is too restricted and under utilized. Especially in cases of lane closure (incidents of emergencies, car accidents, etc) the remaining traffic is condensed onto fewer lanes, sometimes with zero lanes open.

To truly achieve the purpose of the HOV/zipper lanes, which is to mitigate traffic and reduce time waiting on the road, I urge you to pass HB866.

Mahalo,  
*Maeda Timson*

Maeda Timson  
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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES  
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MUFI HANNEMANN  
MAYOR



WAYNE Y. YOSHIOKA  
ACTING DIRECTOR

SHARON THOM  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

February 6, 2009

The Honorable Joseph M. Souki, Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Transportation  
State House of Representatives  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

## LATE TESTIMONY

Dear Chair Souki and Members:

**Subject: House Bill No. 866, Relating to High Occupancy Vehicle Lanes**

The City and County of Honolulu Department of Transportation Services (DTS) supports the intent of HB 866. We agree that the utilization of high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes and zipper lanes could be useful in managing traffic during incidents that shut down general-purpose traffic lanes on major roadway facilities.

It is our understanding that the State of Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) Director already has the authority to allow the HOV and zipper lanes to be used by motor vehicles with less than the minimum number of occupants during incidents. We believe this would be the most prudent way to regulate the use of the HOV and zipper lanes, and we encourage HDOT to develop a protocol to allow swift decision-making and notification of drivers regarding use of HOV and zipper lanes when incidents occur.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our testimony.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wayne Y. Yoshioka", is written over the typed name.

Wayne Y. Yoshioka  
Acting Director