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Cc: plindsey@honolulu.gov
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR84 on Mar 21, 2016 10:15AM

HCR84

Submitted on: 3/18/2016

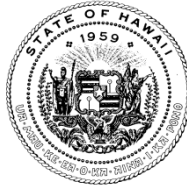
Testimony for TRN on Mar 21, 2016 10:15AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael D. Formby	C&C Dept.Transportation Svcs	Support	No

Comments: The Department of Transportation Services (DTS) supports the planting of trees to provide shade and shelter, especially for the benefit of Hawaii's senior population. In addition, the planting of trees along streets is entirely consistent with the City's Age-Friendly City Action Plan submitted in June 2015 which advocates for additional rest areas shaded by trees. By way of clarification, DTS notes that the planting of trees along City streets is regulated by the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

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March 21, 2016
10:15 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 309

H.C.R. 84 / H.R. 46
URGING THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND THE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF
HONOLULU TO LANDSCAPE HAWAII'S PUBLIC HIGHWAYS AND ROADS BY
PLANTING MORE TREES

House Committee on Transportation

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports the intent** of this resolution and offers the following concerns:

Planting of trees within the State DOT's jurisdiction should be considered on a case-by-case basis depending on factors such as maintenance requirements, location, and durability.

Maintenance Requirements – It takes a full work day to prune a single large canopy shade tree. Tree pruning is done during the daylight hours and requires lane closures. The work will require additional funding and additional maintenance personnel.

Location - Locating trees is possible where there is available land beyond the required setback distance. The DOT has adopted the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) criteria such that for trees with trunk diameters of 4 inches or greater, they are considered an obstruction, and should not be located in vehicular recovery zones.

Tree locations also require minimum clearances from existing underground and overhead utility lines, highway signage, and highway pavement structures where tree roots can cause damage to these facilities.

Durability - Trees are healthy when they are watered regularly. If there is insufficient rainfall or no irrigation system, trees will slowly succumb to pest infestation or disease, and eventually need to be removed.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.