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March 15, 2024

3:02 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

H.B. 2270 H.D. 1
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts

The Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) **supports the intent** of this bill which seeks to establish a task force to develop and explore alternate routes into and out of the Waianae Coast, including through Kolekole pass and opening Waianae Coast emergency access road, and provides the following comments.

The HDOT is already working to provide alternate access in and out of the Waianae Coast area through the use of existing State and City facilities. The HDOT is working with the Honolulu Fire Department and the City's Department of Emergency Management on wildfire mitigation and emergency access routes in Waianae and is adding an additional lane on Farrington Highway, between Helelua Street and Mohihi Street.

The HDOT is also collaborating with the Army and Navy on the feasibility of utilizing the road through Kolekole Pass to allow for emergency access.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
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STATE OF HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
HAWAI'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2270 HD1
RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURAL AND THE ARTS
PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY

JAMES DS. BARROS
ADMINISTRATOR
HAWAI'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

MARCH 15, 2024

Aloha Chairs Lee and Wakai, Vice-Chairs Inouye and Elerante and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony to **COMMENT** on HB 2270 HD1.

We support the intent of House Bill 2270 HD1 which seeks to establish partnerships between state and county entities with the aim of creating a readily accessible route that effectively serves the needs of the community during times of crisis. The importance of having alternative routes for emergency purposes cannot be overstated, particularly in areas like Wai'anae that are prone to natural disasters and other emergencies. Wai'anae's limited access routes can present significant challenges during such situations.

Supporting legislation that provides an alternative egress route out of the Wai'anae Coast for emergency purposes offers several potential benefits. These include improvements in emergency response, enhancement of public safety, bolstering economic resilience, and instilling greater confidence within the community.

Constructing new infrastructure to establish alternate routes requires careful consideration of factors such as feasibility, cost, and environmental impact. The priority should focus on the purpose of occasional use for emergencies, which could alleviate some of the aforementioned factors. It is also vital to engage local communities, stakeholders, and experts in the planning

and decision-making process to ensure a comprehensive understanding of all perspectives and address potential concerns. We have been in communication with the State of Hawai'i, Department of Transportation (SDOT) and understand that they are currently actively communicating with other state and federal agencies such as the Navy and Army.

This bill would help the Wai'anāe Coast community in developing an alternative plan that meets the objectives outlined in this legislation. However, the Department of Defense provides comments on this bill, but defers to the Department of Transportation for their input on the impacts to the current process and risks, and any other matters relating to implementation and refinement of this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide **comments** to HB2270 HD1.

James Barros: james.barros@hawaii.gov; 808-733-4300



**SUPPORTS THE INTENT OF HB 2270, HD1
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts
The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair
The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair
The Honorable Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

Friday, March 15, 2024; 3:02 PM
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference
Hawaii State Capitol; 415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Chairs Lee and Wakai, Vice Chairs Inouye and Elefante, and Members of the Committees:

The Hawaii Military Affairs Council ("MAC") supports the intent of HB 2270, HD1 which establishes a task force to develop and explore alternate routes into and out of the Waianae Coast, including through Kolekole pass and opening Waianae Coast emergency access road.

The MAC was established in 1985 when the Chamber was appointed by the State to serve as the liaison to the military. The MAC advocates on behalf of Hawaii's military, and is comprised of business leaders, academic institutions, State and County officials, members of the CODEL, community leaders, labor unions and organizations and retired U.S. flag and general officers. The MAC works to support Hawaii's location as a strategic U.S. headquarters in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region which is crucial for U.S. national and homeland security.

The United States military is acutely aware of the challenges faced by the residents of Oahu's westside, particularly the limited access to roads and the current state of disrepair of the Kolekole Pass. We understand the critical role this pass plays as an emergency evacuation route and the potential it holds for easing traffic congestion in the area. The MAC is dedicated to working collaboratively with our military partners, the local community, and the state to find a viable solution that addresses these concerns.

We believe that this measure is not needed and a similar approach from the Waianae Coast emergency access road system can be applied to the Kolekole Pass.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2270-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 10:27:29 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/15/2024 3:02:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stacy Haruguchi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Building a road adjacent to or on top of the jeep trail going around Kaena Point may be a safer and wiser course of action than trying to go through Kolekole pass. If a fire, tsunami or other natural disaster cuts off Waialua and Haleiwa from Kaukonahua Road, Kamehameha Hwy or Farrington Hwy, going around Kaena Point may be the safest, easiest path, even if using the unimproved jeep trail (~2.3 miles). Similarly, if Farrington Highway is blocked from Nanakuli north, an improved road around Kaena Point would be easier and shorter than trying to improve Kolekole Pass Road (4 miles?). The Kaena Point Jeep trail is relatively flat compared to Kolekole Pass Road, does not involve multiple switch backs, and does not encroach on military property.