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869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

Tuesday, March 31, 2026  
10:00am  
State Capitol, 430

**HR 57 / HCR63**  
**URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO DETERMINE AND CLEARLY DEFINE**  
**JURISDICTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR HONOPOU BRIDGE AND TAKE**  
**COORDINATED ACTION TO ADDRESS RELATED SAFETY, WILDFIRE RISK, AND**  
**EMERGENCY ACCESS CONCERNS.**

House Committee on Transportation

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The Department of Transportation (HDOT) supports HR57 and HCR63, which urges the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) and HDOT to clarify jurisdiction over Honopou Bridge and take coordinated action to address safety, wildfire risk, and emergency access concerns.

Honopou Bridge is a critical access route for East Maui. As highlighted in the resolution, current load limitations and unclear jurisdiction have delayed needed improvements, potentially impacting emergency response and evacuation capabilities.

HDOT supports clearly defining roles and advancing a coordinated path forward. The Department is committed to working with DLNR to provide technical assistance on engineering, access, and potential funding considerations to help implement practical solutions.

HDOT also supports the resolution's focus on community engagement, updated assessments, and a coordinated improvement plan to ensure safe and reliable access for residents and emergency responders.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

**HCR-63**

Submitted on: 3/30/2026 7:48:50 PM

Testimony for TRN on 3/31/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hugh Starr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Darius K. Kila, Vice Chair Tyson K. Miyake, and Members:

I am Hugh Starr of East Maui, representing our extended Starr Ohana. We have a 14 acre agricultural plot at Honopou, East Maui; our place is about ½ mile makai of the ‘Honopou Bridge’, the subject of House Concurrent Resolution 63 (HCR63). We understand your House Transportation Committee will be considering HCR63 tomorrow, Tuesday March 31, 2026.

We have reviewed this proposed Resolution. **We strongly support the Resolution.** We believe the Resolution clearly articulates the serious ongoing challenges & inherent risks our Honopou Community confronts with respect to our sub-standard Honopou Bridge.

We really do appreciate your support of HCR63.

Thank you, The Starr Ohana

**HCR-63**

Submitted on: 3/31/2026 8:44:06 AM

Testimony for TRN on 3/31/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laf Young	Individual	Comments	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha All:

The document is well assembled and presented. There are two paragraphs that I feel need some articulation to properly represent the past history of the bridge.

Paragraph 4 would more clearly reflect the truth if it read thusly:

WHEREAS, following community safety concerns and legislative review, the Department of Land and Natural Resources gathered new structural engineering advice and concluded without any improvements or maintenance, that the vehicle load rating could be increased to 13 tons! If vehicle speeds were kept below 5 mph.

Paragraph 6

WHEREAS, The Department of Transportation reported that the bridge was originally designed as an emergency replacement for a failed wooded bridge in 1994 for significantly lighter loads, approximately 5 tons, which is below the weight of modern fire apparatus and other emergency response vehicles, and recommended increasing the load capacity to approximately twenty tons; and

These are modest changes to the document that more clearly reflect the history of the neighborhood. The big red flag contrasts the difference between upgrading the load limit from the original 5 tons to 2.6 times that, or 13 tons with absolutely zero State maintenance since the installation 30 years ago!

These are just my personal recollections and opinions.

I realize that time is of the essence, so feel free to edit or ignore my suggestions.

Sincerely,

Laf