

# **SB 1214**

RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION.

Repeals the Commission on Transportation  
in the Department of Transportation.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



Testimony of  
GLENN M. OKIMOTO  
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IN REPLY REFER TO:

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

February 4, 2013  
1:16 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

**S.B. 1214**  
**RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION**

Senate Committee on Transportation and International Affairs

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The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports to abolish the Commission on Transportation** in its advisory capacity to the Director of Transportation on matters within the jurisdiction of the DOT.

Created in 1961 as a advisory commission, its purpose is no longer necessary today and will streamline the operations of the DOT without negative impact to the public.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR

GLENN OKIMOTO  
DIRECTOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
COMMISSION ON TRANSPORTATION  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

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SHAWN SMITH

IN REPLY REFER TO:

February 1, 2013

## TESTIMONY OF OWEN MIYAMOTO, COMMISSIONER OF TRANSPORTATION ON SENATE BILL 1214 RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION

Honorable J. Kalani English, Chair  
Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation and International Affairs,

**I am testifying in opposition to Senate Bill 1214, Relating to Transportation.**

I am one of eight remaining members of the Commission on Transportation, which is authorized a total of eleven members. The Commission serves in an advisory capacity to the Department of Transportation. Without the permission of the DOT to convene, the Commission has not been able to meet since April 2012 and select a Chair and Vice-Chair when the members serving those positions completed their terms on July 1, 2012.


The Commission was created by the Hawaii Revised Statutes on July 1, 1961 to replace the Hawaii Aeronautics Commission and the Board of Harbor Commissioners. In its advisory capacity it provides input to the operation and management of the DOT. The members are able to provide useful insight of the public on the programs of DOT that have an important influence on the economic activities of the State. The members possess experience in the business world and are willing to share their time and knowledge.

In the years that I was involved with the DOT, the commission meetings served as an opportunity to hear from the users of transportation facilities. This was especially true for the neighbor islands, whenever the Commission met on the neighbor islands. Input from that constituency is also available from the Commissioners representing the neighbor islands. It became apparent that there are many issues that need the attention of the DOT administrators as revealed in the Senate Investigative Committee hearings during 2010. More than just providing advice, the Commission is willing assist the Department in implementing change and should be allowed to continue their voluntary service to the DOT in seeking the most effective and efficient transportation system.

**I urge you to table Senate Bill 1214.**

# SB1214

Thursday, January 31, 2013  
3:51 PM

Subject	<b>Submitted testimony for SB1214 on Feb 4, 2013 13:16PM</b>
From	<a href="mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov">mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov</a>
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## **SB1214**

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

Testimony for TIA on Feb 4, 2013 13:16PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David R. Marshall	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Mahalo for your consideration.

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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## Transportation Commission Repeal SBI214

Having served on the Transportation Commission, I can say that Commissioners are a dedicated group of experienced individuals who volunteer their time and sincerely want to help their fellow citizens. As an advisory group, the commission can enhance the operation of the Department of Transportation without hindering managerial planning or operation. The Director is completely free to disagree with the advice of the commission.

It's impossible to quantify the negative impact to the public, since no one can predict the future, but losing this asset would be a loss.

I can't see how elimination of the commission will streamline operations of the department. During my term, monthly meetings were usually held in Airport Division offices but were frequently canceled. Costs to the Department are minimal. There is no cost to the Department for work done by Commissioners; outside of, or during meetings. For the meetings, commissioners receive \$20 per diem, parking, and air fare for those who travel from the neighbor islands.

It's sad that the Department has chosen to not utilize this high value, very low cost asset, but of course that's their option.. Eliminating the Commission will not just eliminate the opportunity for this administration.. Elimination will deny Hawaii citizens involvement in their government for the future.