



TESTIMONY BY:

JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
LYNN A.S. ARAKI-REGAN
DEREK J. CHOW
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN

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

April 14, 2021
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Teleconference

S.C.R. 235, S.D. 1
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO EVALUATE
TRAFFIC CONGESTION, HIGHWAY FLOODING, AND ROAD SAFETY ISSUES ON
HAWAI'I ISLAND.

House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** S.C.R. 235, S.D. 1 and offers comments. S.C.R. 235, S.D. 1 requests the DOT to evaluate traffic congestion, highway flooding, and road safety issues on Hawaii Island.

The DOT supports efforts to improve the operations, capacity, and safety of its roadways. Because needs of the State Highway System exceed available resources, the DOT has identified safety and preservation projects as being the highest priority for funding. Capacity is identified as a need and potential improvements are identified in the Hawaii Long Range Land Transportation Plan (LRLTP). For safety projects to be considered for the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, the project should be identified from the DOT Highway Safety Improvement Program.

As mentioned by the resolution, the DOT previously started a study during which it was determined that widening Kuakini Highway from two to four lanes would require acquisitions for over 150 property owners and funding in excess of \$150 million. The DOT terminated the widening study due to infeasibility. The resolution requests the DOT look into narrowing the existing lanes to a uniform width of 10'. The lanes widths in that section of roadway currently vary between 10-12.5'. Because the lanes vary in width, it may be unlikely to provide a consistent additional width to allow for widening.

The resolution requests DOT address flooding at the intersection of Mamalahoa Highway and Meleana Place. Although DOT is in the process of acquiring this portion of the highway from Hawaii County for consistency and continuity, while exchanging portions on the State system that do not fall within our mission, this area is currently under the jurisdiction of the County of Hawaii and is not on the State Highway System. Therefore, it would be appropriate for the County of Hawaii to conduct this study.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.