



**TESTIMONY BY:**

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**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
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March 25, 2021  
3:00 PM  
State Capitol, Teleconference

**S.C.R. 235 / S.R. 195**  
**REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO EVALUATE**  
**KUAKINI HIGHWAY AND QUEEN KAAHUMANU HIGHWAY BETWEEN HENRY**  
**STREET AND KAMEHAMEHA III ROAD ON HAWAI'I ISLAND AND CONDUCT A**  
**FEASIBILITY STUDY REGARDING TRAFFIC REDUCTION BY WIDENING THE**  
**HIGHWAY OR OTHER ALTERNATIVE MEANS**

Senate Committee on Transportation

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The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** S.C.R. 235 / S.R. 195 and offers comments. S.C.R. 235 / S.R. 195 requests the DOT to evaluate Kuakini Highway and Queen Kaahumanu Highway between Henry Street and Kamehameha III Road on Hawaii Island and conduct a feasibility study regarding traffic reduction by widening the highway or other alternative means.

The DOT supports efforts to improve the operations and capacity of its roadways. However, the needs of the State Highway System exceed our available resources. Because of this, 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.

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.

For safety projects to be considered for the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, the project should be identified from the DOT Highway Safety Improvement Program. The resolution also requests that the DOT look into narrowing the existing 14' lanes to 10'. The lanes in that section of roadway are not 14', currently the lane widths vary between 10' and 12.5' and the shoulder widths vary between 5' and 11'.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.