

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
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IN REPLY REFER TO:

February 28, 2012

LATE TESTIMONY

**H.B. 2613
RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION**

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Department of Transportation (DOT) strongly supports this administration bill to amend Chapter 266, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to provide an exemption from the permit and site plan approvals requirements relating to submerged lands within the conservation district. The bill proposes to exempt submerged lands within the State's commercial harbors system from the provisions of Chapter 183C, Hawaii Revised Statutes, relating to permits and site plans approvals. This exemption will enable the Harbors Division to more efficiently implement needed projects to meet the growing needs of the maritime industry.

Sufficient oversight already exists for submerged lands within the State's commercial harbors system for the preservation of the ecosystem, flora and fauna as the DOT will continue to be subject to the requirements of Chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes, as well as the permit requirements by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and oversight by the State Department of Health for federal programs such as the Clean Water Act. We believe this proposal eliminates the delay for obtaining permit and site plan approvals that through other review processes are in place to address environmental concerns and the public interest. This proposal will allow the DOT Harbors Division to more timely and efficiently implement harbor projects.

We urge your support for this bill.



FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 10:08 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: ChoonJamesHawaii@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2613 on 2/28/2012 11:00:00 AM

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony for FIN 2/28/2012 11:00:00 AM HB2613

Conference room: 308
Identifier position: Oppose
Identifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Choon James
Organization: Country Talk Story
E-mail: ChoonJamesHawaii@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:

OPPOSE HB 2613

This has been an questionable legislative year of EXEMPTIONS and more EXEMPTIONS from sunshine to due process to environmental protection laws.

It is very worrisome.

There were ample trust in government, the public may feel okay about this. But public confidence in government and bureaucracy has sunk to an all-time low.

Legislators are now perceived to always kow-tow to contractors, developers, and special interests first and ignore the general public.

This Bill and other similar bills are heading our state into the wrong direction.

Democratic processes are not autocratic.

Must not turn us into a Banana Republic.

You cannot deny the public basic due process. Vain excuses like expediency and jobs to fast-track these processes do not cut it.

This BILL has no place in Hawaii. Please table this very bad idea. We need to be more vigilant and sober in land-use decisions, not less.

Mahalo,

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