



February 27, 2009

Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair
Committee on Finance
Conference Room 308
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Representative Oshiro:

Subject: **House Bill No. HB 1167 HD1 Relating to Highways**

My name is Dean Uchida, Vice President of the Hawaii Developers' Council (HDC). We represent over 200 members and associates in development-related industries. The mission of Hawaii Developers' Council (HDC) is to educate developers and the public regarding land, construction and development issues through public forums, seminars and publications.

It is also the goal of HDC to promote high ethics and community responsibility in real estate development and related trades and professions.

The HDC is in strong support of H.B. No. 1167 HD1 commonly referred to as the "Highway Modernization Program." The proposed legislation would increase the:

- State liquid fuel tax;
- State vehicle registration fee;
- State vehicle weight fee; and
- Rental motor vehicle surcharge tax.

Funds raised through these increases would provide the funding for a six-year comprehensive highway modernization program.

As the bill correctly points out, traffic, congestion and travel times have become increasing worse over time throughout the state. In many communities, traffic is at the top of problems or issues that communities deal with on a daily basis. The bill provides the funding sources necessary to address the problems and deficiencies in the state highways.

We strongly recommend that H.B. No. 1167 HD1 be approved as soon as possible.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.