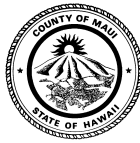


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COUNTY COUNCIL
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February 5, 2018

TO: The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
Senate Committee on Transportation and Energy

FROM: Mike White
Council Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Mike White", is written over the printed name and title.

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 7, 2018; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2888, RELATING TO THE PAIA BYPASS**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important bill. The purpose of this measure is to authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds for the State Department of Transportation to plan, design, and construct the Paia bypass on Maui.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I **support** this measure for the following reasons:

1. Constructing the Paia bypass is a top priority among residents and has been in the discussion and preliminary planning stages for over 15 years. An environmental impact statement is nearly completed and an investment of resources must be made to initiate the design and construction.
2. The Paia bypass will help to alleviate the severe traffic congestion and safety concerns that currently exist on Hana Highway to and from Paia, Haiku, and East Maui. Through a partnership, the County of Maui and Alexander and Baldwin alleviated some traffic congestion with a temporary mini-bypass. As a result, drivers avoid having to enter Paia Town when heading towards Makawao on Baldwin Avenue. Despite these efforts, traffic continues to persist and has steadily increased year after year. A permanent solution is sorely needed.
3. It is my understanding that the Paia bypass is on the statewide intermodal program of transportation projects (STIP) and federal funding is available for construction costs. The time has come to make this project a reality through this Federal-State partnership.

For the foregoing reasons, I strongly **support** this measure.