

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

July 10, 2007

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIONS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1605

Honorable Members  
Twenty-Fourth Legislature  
State of Hawaii

Pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii, I am returning herewith, without my approval, House Bill No. 1605, entitled "A Bill for an Act Relating to Traffic Control."

The purpose of this bill is to appropriate funds for the development and implementation of an intelligent transportation system architectural plan for Maui that includes a Maui traffic control center.

I concur with the goal to establish a traffic control system on each of the major islands that allows both the public and highway traffic managers to better utilize routes and re-route traffic as traffic congestion occurs.

However, this bill is objectionable because it utilizes moneys from the State Highway Fund for a project that is not yet on the approved State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP). This plan sets priorities of traffic improvement projects on each island and allows a fair and transparent use of highway funds for the priority projects that are specifically on the plan as set by the community. To divert moneys out of the Highway Fund for this specific project at the expense of other community approved projects that have been waiting for funding is both unfair and not sound fiscal planning.

Further, the State has been informed by the County of Maui that it has not budgeted its own funds for the Maui Traffic

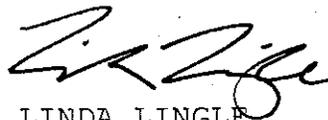
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Control Center and it is unknown at the present time whether Maui will allocate resources for this project.

As noted in my July 5, 2007 communication to Speaker Say and President Hanabusa, the defect in this bill can be easily remedied by appropriating moneys from the General Fund rather than the State Highway Fund to construct this center. I have asked the Legislature to make this amendment so that I may sign this measure for the people of Maui. Without this amendment, which only the Legislature can enact, the bill is unacceptable.

For the foregoing reasons, I am returning House Bill No. 1605 without my approval.

Respectfully,



LINDA LINGLE  
Governor of Hawaii