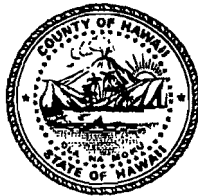


Harry Kim
Mayor



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February 3, 2006

The Honorable David Ige
Chair, Committee on
Intergovernmental Affairs
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

The Honorable Lorraine Inouye
Chair, Committee on Transportation
and Government Operations
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Ige, Senator Inouye, and Committee Members:

RE: SB 2410 Making an Appropriation for the Roads in Limbo Program

In the 1960s the State of Hawai'i awarded jurisdiction of government and homestead roads to the counties. It should be pointed out that the vast majority of these roads were previously under the jurisdiction of the state government. These "roads in limbo" were never improved or upgraded to a dedicable standard before being transferred to the County of Hawai'i, nor was funding provided for maintenance thereafter.

The Department of Public Works has established an inventory of these roads so that it can properly identify and determine the cost of needed improvements to them. The County of Hawai'i is proposing an ongoing partnership program to the State for addressing this issue of maintaining and upgrading the "roads in limbo," where both the state and county annually contribute to resolve this long-standing problem. Should this funding become available, the County of Hawai'i will take full responsibility for implementing this project. Maintenance of these roads needs to be addressed, and the only way of addressing this is through combined funding from the state and county governments.

This Legislature was kind enough to appropriate \$2 million for the County in the 2005-06 budget, but those monies were never released because the Attorney General felt that the highway special fund could not be used for this purpose. Therefore, we come before you again, in the hopes that you could authorize the use of General Funds to get this partnership up and running.

Aloha,

Harry Kim
MAYOR