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PPB 12.1999

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

April 12, 2006

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

COPY

The Honorable Robert Bunda, President
And Members of the Senate
Twenty -Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 003
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mr. President and Members of the Senate:

For your information and consideration, I am transmitting herewith two (2) copies of the Department of Transportation's progress report related to the establishment of flexible highway design guidelines as required by Section 3, Act 185, Session Laws of Hawaii 2005. Pursuant to Section 93-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes, I am also informing you that the report may be viewed electronically at www.state.hi.us/dot/administration/legislature.

The DOT respectfully requests that the deadline for the establishment of flexible highway design guidelines be extended to June 30, 2007 in order to provide the DOT with sufficient time to address the needs of the community.

Sincerely,


LINDA LINGLE

Enclosures

- bc: DOT: *JK*
- Director/Deputy Director (1)
- Planning, Programming & Budgeting Office (1)
- Harbors Division (1) *HWL*
- Legislative Coordinator (1)
- Computer Systems & Services Office (1)
- Hawaii State Public Library System (15)
- University of Hawaii (1)



PPB 12.2000

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

April 12, 2006

COPY

The Honorable Calvin K. Y. Say, Speaker
And Members of the House of Representatives
Twenty -Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mr. Speaker and Members of the House:

For your information and consideration, I am transmitting herewith two (2) copies of the Department of Transportation's progress report related to the establishment of flexible highway design guidelines as required by Section 3, Act 185, Session Laws of Hawaii 2005. Pursuant to Section 93-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes, I am also informing you that the report may be viewed electronically at www.state.hi.us/dot/administration/legislature.

The DOT respectfully requests that the deadline for the establishment of flexible highway design guidelines be extended to June 30, 2007 in order to provide the DOT with sufficient time to address the needs of the community.

Sincerely,

/s/ 

LINDA LINGLE

Enclosures

bc: Governor's Office (Attn: Research)
Lieutenant Governor's Office
Legislative Reference Bureau (Attn: Karen Mau)
Legislative Auditor
Department of Budget and Finance
Representative Joseph M. Souki
Representative Dwight Y. Takamine

REPORT TO THE TWENTY THIRD LEGISLATURE

OF

THE STATE OF HAWAII

REGULAR SESSION OF 2006

ON

ACT 185

SESSION LAWS OF HAWAII 2005

SUBJECT: ESTABLISHMENT OF FLEXIBLE HIGHWAY DESIGN

GUIDELINES: A PROGRESS REPORT

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
April 2006

TITLE: REPORT TO THE TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII, REGULAR SESSION 2006 ON ACT 185, SESSION LAWS OF HAWAII 2005

SUBJECT: ESTABLISHMENT OF FLEXIBLE HIGHWAY DESIGN GUIDELINES (SB1876CD1)

The Department of Transportation (DOT), more specifically the Highway Division (HWY) has been tasked to execute Act 185, SLH2005. The first step taken by the HWY was to formulate and assemble a working committee comprised of experts in various facets of design from within the HWY and the Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) to participate in the preparation of guidelines for the application of Flexible Highway Design, also known as Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS), on State highway projects.

The Highways Division, Design Branch is spearheading and chairing this committee. The committee is currently comprised of the following:

- Highways Division, Design Branch
 - Design Section
 - Bridge Section
 - Hydraulic Section
 - Landscape Design
 - Technical Design Services
- Highways Division, Planning Branch
- Highways Division, Right-of-Way Branch
- Highways Division, Traffic Branch
- Highways Division Oahu, Maui, Kauai and Hawaii Districts
- Federal Highways Administration

Mr. Keith Harrison, from the FHWA Resource Center in San Francisco, has also volunteered to act as an advisor to the committee. Mr. Harrison is a Safety/Geometric Design Engineer and is an expert in CSS, Roadside Design and in the technical aspects of the Green Book.

Presently, FHWA has suggested and has volunteered to assist us in finding at least one person from one of the environmental groups on our committee, the Outdoor Circle or Sierra Club, for example.

RESULTS OF FIRST MEETING HELD:

The committee first met on October 31, 2005 with the following results:

- Most of the discussion centered upon the exact nature of the documents necessary to satisfy the conditions of the Act without exposing the Department to additional liability.

- The group decided that further discussion with the DOT and with the Office of the Attorney General was needed to determine the best direction /course of action to take in the development of said guidelines.
- The group felt that documenting a process as broad and undefined as Flexible Highway Design would be very difficult without a clearly defined direction.

December 2005 through January 2006:

- Discussions with the Attorney General's office on the interpretation of the requirements of the Act 185.
- Discussion with the DOT on the future of Flexible Highway Design and its role in the design process took place in January 2006.

Results: It was determined that, amongst other things, Flexible Highway Design guidelines would be a basis upon which a larger program would be built. Because of this, and because of the extensive interaction with government agencies and community groups required by Act 185, it is doubtful that the current deadline of June 30, 2006 can be met.

Current Status:

- In accordance with Section 3 (c), the committee is currently seeking comments and recommendations on which organizations would best represent the needs and views of the community.
- These organizations would be involved in the development and review of the Flexible Highway Design guidelines.
- We anticipate that a preliminary draft of guidelines will begin within the next few months and we are confident that we will be ready for an external review at the end of April 2006.

REQUEST FOR A ONE (1) YEAR REPORT EXTENSION:

To successfully comply with the provisions as contained in Act 185, the DOT respectfully requests that the deadline for the establishment of Flexible Highway Design guidelines reflect a reporting date of June 30, 2007. This one (1) year extension will further ensure that the DOT, more specifically the HWY, has sufficient time to conduct a thorough review of the guidelines and has addressed the needs of the community.