

REPORT TO THE TWENTY THIRD LEGISLATURE

OF

THE STATE OF HAWAII

REGULAR SESSION OF 2005

ON

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 171

**SUBJECT: “REQUESTING THE DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION TO STUDY  
THE ADVISABILITY OF TRANSFERRING THE VANPOOL PROGRAM TO THE  
COUNTIES”**

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
DECEMBER 2004

The Hawaii Department of Transportation (DOT) has been requested to determine the advisability and feasibility of transferring the responsibility for operating the Vanpool Program to the counties.

The DOT Vanpool Program began a little more than a decade ago. As of December 2004, there are 122 vanpools on Oahu, 24 on the Big Island, 7 on Maui, and none on Kauai. During FY 2004, the DOT spent a total of \$1.73 million (including \$1.68 million of Federal funds) to subsidize vanpool operations.

The DOT has informally contacted each county regarding the proposed transfer of the Vanpool Program. The counties have expressed the following concerns:

1. Each county would need to hire staff to administer and manage a county Vanpool Program. The counties are reluctant to use county funds for this purpose.
2. Counties have indicated a reluctance to continue the vanpool program, citing investment in transit operations as a higher priority. If funds used to subsidize Vanpool could be used for other purposes, the counties would prefer to set their own priorities. Each county has its own unique needs and transportation characteristics.

DOT Recommendation on House Concurrent Resolution No. 171:

Transferring DOT's Vanpool Program to the counties would not be appropriate at this time.