



14 MAR 17 P4:37

The Senate

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

HARBORS DIVISION

March 12, 2014

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary of Transportation
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

It is my pleasure to express support for the State of Hawai'i, Department of Transportation, Harbors Division's application for the Pier 4 Wharf Improvement Project, Hilo Harbor, Hawai'i Island, to receive TIGER funding. This action will result in the construction of a new 602-foot long wharf that will be an invaluable asset to supporting interisland shipments of goods.

This project is a single piece of a greater effort to improve capacity, efficiency and safety at Hilo Harbor. Furthermore, improvements to Pier 4 will strengthen Hilo Harbor's interconnection to the statewide commercial harbor system. The importance of an improved commercial harbor system is critical as we are an island state highly dependent on ocean transportation.

This project meets the requirements of the grant and has been properly vetted. Other improvements to Hilo Harbor such as dredging have already been completed. This project will bring about economic, social and regional benefits; as such, it is supported by the community, harbor users and the government.

We humbly thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Hau'oli Ka Mana'o,

Gilbert Kahele
Hawai'i State Senator
District 1, Hilo