



April 1, 2014

Glenn Okimoto
Director
State of Hawaii Department of Transportation
869 Punchbowl Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Director Okimoto,

Re: State of Hawaii, Department of Transportation Harbors Division TIGER VI Discretionary Grants Application; Pier 4 Wharf Project at Hilo Commercial Harbor, Hawaii Island

We firmly support the Hawaii Department of Transportation, Harbors Division's (HDOT) TIGER VI

Discretionary Funds grant application for the Pier 4 Wharf Project at Hilo Commercial Harbor, Hawaii Island. Favorable consideration of HDOT's TIGER VI Discretionary Funds grant application will significantly benefit HDOT's New Day Work Projects initiative and bolster Hawaii's economic future.

The Hawaii Harbors Users Group (HHUG) was established in 2005 as a non-profit harbor user industry group whose mission is to help the state identify, prioritize, and support the improvement needs of Hawaii's nine commercial harbors. HHUG has 23 member companies that are primary users of all the state harbors

Aloha Cargo Transport
American Marine
Ameron Hawaii
Clean Island Council
Hawaiian Cement
Hawaii Stevedores, Inc
Hawaii Pilots
Hawaii Pacific University
Kirby Offshore Marine, LLC

Horizon Lines
Kapolei Property Dev.
Matson Navigation Co.
McCabe Hamilton and
Renny
North West & Canada
Cruise Association
Norwegian Cruise Line
NYK North America

Pacific Shipyards International
Pasha Hawaii
P&R Water Taxi
Sause Brothers, Inc.
Hawaii Independent Energy.
LLC
The Gas Company
Young Brothers / Hawaiian Tug
& Barge

HDOT's commercial harbor system plays a critical role in maintaining Hawaii's economy. More than 80 percent of all consumer goods – food, clothing, autos, building supplies, machinery, agricultural materials and more – are imported to Hawaii. Of that 98 percent of these goods arrive via ocean transportation. The commercial harbors system is our islands' lifeline to the world, akin to the U.S. Highway system that facilitates U.S. domestic commerce for the other 48 contiguous states. For these contiguous states, the highway system allows farmers, manufacturers and importers the means to get their products to market. Hawaii is unique in that it is our harbor system that facilitates the transport of those products to our island communities.

As with the rest of our State Hawaii Island is trying to revitalize its economy. Provision of TIGER VI Discretionary Funds for the Hilo Commercial Harbor Pier 4 Wharf Project will profoundly impact the island's economy and help revitalize the community. These are a few of the tangible benefits that the completion of Hilo Pier 4 will accomplish for Hawaii Island:

- Improve / enhance the capacity and capability of Hilo Harbor
- Provide a facility to allow for more efficient and effective import of the needed commodities to sustain the island community. This will also facilitate the export of locally grown products to help grow productivity and economy of Hawaii Island and help to enhance the State's economy.
- Improve safety conditions in the port of Hilo and reduce the number, rate and severity of accidents.

We believe that the Hilo Pier 4 project is vital to the future of the communities and people Hawaii Island.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice HHUG's support for this most needed and critical project.

Sincerely yours,

Gary J North

GARY J. NORTH
Executive Director
Hawaii Harbors User Group

cc: Honorable Billy Kanoi - Mayor Hawaii Island
Jadine Urasaki – Deputy Director – HDOT
Randy Grune - Deputy Director - Harbors
Carter Luke – Engineering Program Manager – Harbors Division
Vic Angoco - Matson Navigation Company
Ali Nikkhoo - Horizon Lines
Doug Won - Sause Brothers
Glenn Hong - Young Brothers