

United States Senate

April 14, 2014

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
12000 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing in support of the State of Hawaii Department of Transportation's (HDOT) two TIGER Discretionary Grant applications: the Daniel K. Inouye Highway (between mile markers 5.5 and 11) and Hilo Harbor improvements.

The existing Daniel K. Inouye Highway is 48 miles and its completion is critical to ensuring safe travel on Hawaii Island's most direct cross-island route. Improvements to Daniel K. Inouye Highway began in 2004, and 41.5 miles have been reconstructed to date. A shorter and more direct cross-island route will reduce travel times and fuel consumption for all users, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions. TIGER funding will allow the east side of Saddle Road to be completed and provide a safe road that will improve the quality of life and the economy for Hawaii Island.

Hilo Harbor improvements are particularly important as ocean transportation is Hawaii's lifeline to the world. Hawaii is the state most dependent on its port infrastructure, where currently 80 percent of goods consumed in Hawaii are imported. The state's commercial harbors system receives and processes nearly all of these imports. Simply put, intra- and inter-state trade would cease to exist without the commercial harbors system. Port infrastructure investments reap the benefits far beyond investments in other U.S. ports, where only 6 percent of the domestic commerce travels by water.

Accordingly, within applicable rules and regulations, we would appreciate your full and fair consideration of HDOT's TIGER grant applications. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



BRIAN SCHATZ
U.S. Senator

