

### ***The Governor's State of the State speech regarding traffic.***

An issue you identified on Opening Day, traffic, has become a significant drain on the economy as well as on the quality of our personal and family lives. There is no single, easy answer to this daily frustration.

Our Department of Transportation has taken steps to reduce and manage traffic through various projects, but it is not enough and we know it. The Department knows this is a problem that affects a majority of people in the state each day.

It will carry out a combination of new programs, such as the Freeway Patrol Service that will begin by late summer, as well as major highway improvement and expansion projects on all islands.

I am honored that we are joined today by the state's mayors, including Honolulu's new mayor, Mufi Hannemann. Our transportation director, Rod Haraga, has already met with the mayor and I look forward to working closely with him as we address traffic issues in Honolulu. Both Mayor Hannemann and I have been supporters of mass transit on O`ahu and his election offers us an opportunity to look at that issue again.

The final point I will make on traffic is to inform you of my decision not to use money from the State Highway Fund in order to balance the general fund budget even though you authorized the transfer last year. In my travels around the state, the voices of our residents have been loud and clear. They want the existing roads fixed and they want solutions to our traffic problems.

Our Department of Transportation is working hard to keep Hawai'i on the move, but we need to use this highway money for repair, maintenance and construction of our roads and highways, and for no other purpose.

In an island state such as ours, an integrated statewide transportation system is more than just highways. We are committed to investing \$40 million to be repaid over time by the proposed Superferry that will provide a new inter-island passenger, cargo and vehicle transportation alternative. I believe this project can reinvigorate economic activity between the islands that has been stifled by rising inter-island airfares. And it can bring families closer together because of its lower price to travel from one island to another.