



## The Senate

STATE CAPITOL  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

April 28, 2021

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur  
Subcommittee on Energy and Water  
Development, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michael K. Simpson  
Subcommittee on Energy and Water  
Development, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Kaptur and Ranking Member Simpson:

As you craft the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, I respectfully request that you support the Honolulu Harbor Modification Feasibility Study. I am in full support of Harbors Division's request to the US Army Corps of Engineers to commence the feasibility study of the Honolulu Harbor Modification Project.

I understand that the Hawai'i Department of Transportation has budgeted the local sponsor share of the feasibility study costs in fiscal years 2021, 2022, and 2023. We are also pleased that your division is committed to actively participating in the feasibility study and a federal plan to be implemented.

The Hawaii Department of Transportation has requested to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to investigate modifications to Honolulu Harbor to decrease inefficiencies in ship movements caused by limitations in the channels, adapt to new ships and barges, meet maritime growth needs, address safety concerns associated with the single one way channel, and adapt to anticipated sea level rise.

There have been no meaningful improvements to the dimensions of Honolulu Harbor's channels and turning basins in many years. Meanwhile, the ship sizes have been grown significantly. In the 1990s, the typical container ship size was about 24,000 gross tons. Currently, we are routinely handling container ships over 50,000 gross tons. Cruise ship dimensions have also increased significantly from the typical 30,000 to 40,000 gross ton range typical of the 1990s. In 2019, many of the cruise ships that visited Honolulu were well over 100,000 gross tons.

With ship sizes continuing to increase, significant harbor modifications are required to ensure that maritime commerce can continue in Honolulu Harbor in a safe and efficient manner. I support this project and hope the Committee will consider this project for the FY22 Energy and Water Development and related Agencies Appropriations bill.

Sincerely,



Glenn Wakai  
Hawaii State Senator

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