

SCOTT K. SAIKI
Speaker



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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF HAWAII
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April 20, 2021

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Chairwoman
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
Ranking Member
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:

I respectfully request that you support the Honolulu Harbor Modification Feasibility Study as part of the 2022 FY Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

As House Speaker of the Hawaii State House of Representatives, I am in full support of Harbors Division's request to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to commence the feasibility study of the Honolulu Harbor Modification Project.

I understand that the Hawaii Department of the 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 identifying a federal plan that can be implemented.

The Hawaii Department of Transportation has requested to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to investigate modifications to the Honolulu Harbor to decrease inefficiencies in ship movements caused by limitations in the channels and basins, adopt 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 the 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.

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact my office at (808) 586-6100.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Saiki".

Scott K. Saiki
Speaker of the House