

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

June 16, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

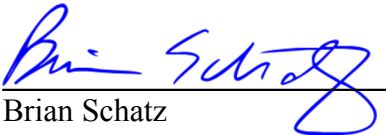
We write to express our support of the State of Hawaii, Department of Transportation, Harbors Division's (HDOT-H) Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) grant application to the Maritime Administration. HDOT-H, in coordination with private partners, requests \$47 million, matched by \$92 million in non-federal spending, for the Kapalama Container Terminal (KCT) Project to improve efficiency and resiliency and reduce emissions.

Congress passed the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* and the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022*, to address infrastructure needs around the country. This project reduces emissions and improves resiliency by eliminating the need for 50,000 truck moves annually, transitioning to electric cranes, and using solar and wind power generation and battery storage to create a microgrid that can be self-sustaining for 48 hours. Further, the project improves efficiency and safety by reducing the need to stack containers.


Ocean transportation is our state's lifeline to the world. Hawaii depends on the efficient movement of cargo to, from, and between Hawaii's Islands to support its economy and ensure access to essential goods. While the contiguous 48 states can use trucks and rail to transport material, Hawaii imports nearly 80 percent of consumer goods, 98 percent of which come through its sea ports. The State's hub-and-spoke shipping model means that goods come into Honolulu Harbor where KCT is located and are then transferred to the neighbor islands via barges. The cost effectiveness calculations are also different given Hawaii's geography. Construction costs are higher and "national" benefits harder to prove because goods do not move over land to other states.


We appreciate your full and fair consideration of DOT-H's application within applicable rules and regulations. If you require additional information, please contact our offices.

Sincerely,

  
Brian Schatz  
United States Senator

  
Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator

  
Ed Case  
Member of Congress

  
Kaiuli Kahele  
Member of Congress