



For Immediate Release  
Monday, October 16, 2006

Contacts  
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## CATASTROPHIC EVACUATION PLAN NEEDED FOR OAHU

HHUA president Panos Prevedouros issued this statement: "Yesterday's earthquake once again proves the need to heed President Bush's declaration on September 15, 2005 to modernize emergency planning procedures. <sup>i</sup> The planning process must ensure continuity of operations through close communications between the public and private sectors."

The American Highway Users Alliance released an EMERGENCY EVACUATION REPORT CARD 2006, on October 12, 2006, citing 25 large urban areas that could face greater challenges than New Orleans experienced after Hurricane Katrina. New Orleans ranked 12<sup>th</sup> with a grade D on the Report Card.

The Alliance's report <sup>ii</sup> makes four recommendations to improve evacuation capacity:

- A national standards and reporting system should be established
- Roadway capacity should be expanded
- Automobile access should be expanded to increase automobile ownership among low-income households that do not have access to automobiles.
- Comprehensive urban area evacuation operations planning should be completed

Professor Prevedouros has publicly expressed the urgent need for Honolulu to develop a Comprehensive Evacuation Operations Plan. "This report card from the American Highway Users Alliance is a grim reminder of the September 5, 2006 closure of H-1 West due to the Aiea bridge damage by a truck carrying an oversize load."

"The Hawaiian Islands are regularly threatened by hurricanes and tsunamis and occasional strong earthquakes which are direct threats to our transportation infrastructure. The lack of a sufficient road network in West Oahu and along the Waianae and North Shore Coastlines especially is very worrisome.

"Honolulu suffers from a critical road shortage. The acute need for a viable evacuation plan is so vital for the public's safety. A network of alternative routes and added road capacity is a must," according to Prevedouros, a Professor of Engineering at UH Manoa.

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See: NATIONWIDE PLAN REVIEW OF CATASTROPHIC PLANNING, PHASE 2 REPORT dated June 16, 2006.

Link to DHS Press Release: <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=5695>

Link to the 174-page U.S. DHS Report:

[http://www.dhs.gov/interweb/assetlibrary/Prep\\_NationwidePlanReview.pdf](http://www.dhs.gov/interweb/assetlibrary/Prep_NationwidePlanReview.pdf)

Link to AHUA Press Release: [http://www.highways.org/Press\\_Releases/release10-12-06.htm](http://www.highways.org/Press_Releases/release10-12-06.htm)  
Link to 34-page AHUA Full Report: [http://www.highways.org/pdfs/evacuation\\_report\\_card2006.pdf](http://www.highways.org/pdfs/evacuation_report_card2006.pdf)

## HHUA FORUM REMINDER

HHUA urges the public to attend the next Transportation Forum featuring distinguished panelists **Robert Poole** of Reason Foundation, **Randal O'Toole** of Thoreau Institute, **Marty Stone**, Ph.D. of the Tampa Hillsborough Expressway Authority, and **Professor Panos Prevedouros**, Ph.D. of the UH Manoa School of Engineering. **HHUA's forum is scheduled for October 23, 2006, 9:30 am to 1:30 pm at the Hale Koa Hotel.** The cost of \$30 includes lunch.

A free workshop is also open to the public on Wed. Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>, 5 – 7 pm, Hawaii State Capitol Auditorium. Speakers will be Marty Stone, Randal O'Toole and Panos Prevedouros.

Registration Form and Panel Information are on HHUA's website.

Link to HHUA website: <http://hhua.org/>

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<sup>ii</sup> Link to AHUA Press Release: [http://www.highways.org/Press\\_Releases/release10-12-06.htm](http://www.highways.org/Press_Releases/release10-12-06.htm)

Link to 34-page AHUA Full Report: [http://www.highways.org/pdfs/evacuation\\_report\\_card2006.pdf](http://www.highways.org/pdfs/evacuation_report_card2006.pdf)