

Why Should You NOT Ride the Superferry?

THEY BROKE THE LAW

Superferry officials tried to get around Hawaii environmental protection laws that required an environmental impact study before any construction or operations could begin. The Lingle administration granted Superferry an exemption, but the Hawaii Supreme Court ruled that this was illegal.

SERIOUS AND IRREPARABLE HARM

After the Supreme Court ruling, Maui judge Cardoza halted the Superferry operations because of the potential for serious and irreparable harm to the environment. These impacts include invasive species, collisions with whales, depletion of natural resources, and traffic and congestion.

We all have a legal obligation to protect public trust resources (such as the environment) for future generations. An environmental impact study before undertaking a major project like the Superferry is essential in order to make informed and responsible decisions that may affect these resources.

ABUSES OF POWER

The Governor and the leadership of the State Legislature abused their power to override the Hawaii Supreme Court decision and passed legislation to grant a special exemption to the Superferry. Governor Lingle again abused her power by mobilizing military force against nonviolent protesters.

BAD PRECEDENT

Granting a special exemption to one company (especially one that made major campaign contributions to the Governor and several State Legislators) makes bad law and sets a terrible precedent. The State Attorney General argued that the State should exempt Superferry from the law based on the bad precedent of the H-3 freeway, which was exempted from Federal environmental review laws. Now Superferry will become a bad precedent for future bad policy decisions.

INVITATION TO CORRUPTION

The Superferry special exemption law will send a message to predatory companies that if they have enough money and political connections they can break Hawaii laws with impunity, or buy themselves a political fix if they happen to get caught.

SUPERFERRY = A WAR MACHINE

The Superferry was built to military specifications for military operations:

“...the Superferry plans to operate a Westpac Express, essentially to carry military equipment and ferry vehicles from Oahu to the Big Island on a daily basis.” - Pacific Business News, March 28, 2005.

“The military utility of the ALAKAI could be diminished if the vessel is not operated in normal commercial operations.” - Declaration of Sean T. Connaughton, Maritime Administrator, Aug. 28, 2007.

The Superferry is owned by J.F. Lehman & Co., a firm that only invests in military projects. The Chair of the Superferry Board is John Lehman, ex-Secretary of the Navy under President Reagan. Lehman is affiliated with the Heritage Foundation, a Right-wing think tank that promotes racist and anti-Hawaiian policies. He is also affiliated with the Project for a New American Century, the group that plotted the disastrous and illegal war with Iraq. We should not be supporting a business with such misguided leadership.

ENOUGH ALREADY!

Isn't it time we say NO to “H-3 style” special exemptions? NO to corrupt politicians, corporate raiders and abuses of power? Take a stand for our communities and the environment by not riding the Superferry. Demand that politicians and businesses put people and the 'aina before profits!