

H-3 given new chance

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By Floyd K. Takeuchi
Advertiser Government Bureau

Hawaii Rep. Daniel Akaka yesterday, in a surprise legislative move, tacked on a critical H-3 Freeway amendment to the House's version of the measure that ensures continued funding of the federal government.

Akaka's action gives the state another shot — and perhaps a better chance — at having Congress approve an exemption that would override an earlier court decision that halted construction of H-3. The timing is critical because a Sept. 30 federal deadline is looming to either stick with H-3 or use the \$716 million for other Oahu transportation projects.

But the freeway's future is still uncertain. President Reagan yesterday said he would veto the House's "continuing resolution" to which Akaka's amendment is attached. The measure contains less for defense and foreign aid than the president is insisting on and what he considers insufficient cuts in domestic programs to meet deficit-reduction requirements. (Story on Page A-17.)

Akaka is a member of the House Appropriations Commit-

tee. The committee yesterday approved Akaka's H-3 amendment during "markup" of the continuing resolution.

The resolution, which continues interim funding for all federal programs until specific authorizations are approved, must still be passed by the full House.

The Senate must also add an H-3 exemption to its version of the continuing resolution. Then any differences in the two measures would have to be worked out in conference committee before the resolution was sent to the president.

Hawaii Sen. Daniel Inouye, a vigorous proponent of completing the freeway, is a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Inouye had said he would try to attach the exemption amendment to the Senate's highway bill when it came to the floor. Akaka has successfully done that with the House highway bill.

It is not clear whether Inouye will follow Akaka's lead and use his position on the Appropriations Committee to add an H-3 amendment there.

However, an Akaka spokes-

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