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Gov. Ariyoshi responds to new H-3 roadblock: Won't lose the money

By Floyd K. Takeuchi
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Gov. George Ariyoshi yesterday said he would take no action that would endanger the \$700 million in federal funds earmarked for the H-3 freeway.

"We are not going to lose those H-3 funds," he said.

The governor was responding to U.S. Sen. Robert Stafford, R-Vt., who said he opposes giving the controversial freeway a special exemption from federal environmental laws. That exemption is necessary to complete the Pearl Harbor to Kaneohe project.

In 1984, the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the freeway's route next to Kaneohe's Hoomaluhia Park would violate federal air and noise pollution regulations. Stafford chairs the Senate committee that is considering the unusual exemption from those laws.

The senator's opposition



Gov. George Ariyoshi
"Some other things can be done"

could all but guarantee the failure of the exemption effort, which is being pushed by Hawaii's congressional delegation.

Ariyoshi yesterday reiterated



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his long-standing support for H-3. But he noted that the administration was looking at "some other things that can be done." He would not be more specific.

If the Ariyoshi administration feels H-3 cannot be revived, it will have until Sept. 30 to ask the U.S. Transportation Department to transfer the freeway funds to other projects. Should Ariyoshi decide to stick with H-3, the state would have until 1990 to begin construction on the remaining portions or lose the funds entirely.

The only way work on H-3 can begin is if Congress grants the exemption.