

Shift in view increases H-3 opposition

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Voter opinion has shifted over the last six months and is now slightly opposed to construction of the trans-Koolau H-3 freeway. The Advertiser's Hawaii Poll shows.

There is still no clear majority on the issue, since many voters express no opinion. But the situation has reversed since October 1974, when a plurality of voters questioned by The Advertiser expressed support for State plans to construct the highway from Kaneohe to Pearl Harbor.

Sentiment against the highway runs especially high among young

persons of ages 18 through 34, haoles, Hawaiians and part-Hawaiians, and women.

The only major demographic groups to voice strong support for H-3 plans are persons of ages 35 through 50 and voters of Chinese ancestry — with both groups registering about 2-1 pro-highway stands.

The results concerning H-3 are based on a telephone interview poll conducted April 18-21 by Surveys of Hawaii, a private firm, using questions designed by The Advertiser. In all, 1,202 registered voters, chosen at random from registration lists in all

senatorial districts, were interviewed.

With this sampling technique and sample size, it can be said that the results of this survey have a 5 per

cent statistical margin-of-error. This means there is only a tiny chance that the results are in error by 5 percentage points or more.

It is impossible to determine from

these data exactly what caused the slight shift of opinion away from H-3.

The two major developments during the six-month interim were triumphs for pro-H-3 forces:

- Judge Samuel P. King's ruling permitting construction to resume.
- The State Legislature's continued support for the highway during its 1975 session.

Balanced against those developments was the formation of a new lobbying group which sponsored an antihighway rally at the State Capitol.

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