



**LATE**

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | KA 'OIHANA ALAKAU  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

April 11, 2025

3:02 A.M.

State Capitol, Room 225 Videoconference

**H.C.R. 121**  
**RELATING TO Transportation**

Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs  
Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts

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The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports H.C.R. 121**, which requests that the United States Department of Defense, United States Army, United States Navy, and State Department of Transportation work with appropriate state and county departments and agencies to expand, plan, and coordinate work to prepare and secure Kolekole Pass as an expanded emergency exit route for residents on the Westside of O'ahu in the event of dangerous gridlocks, natural disasters, or unforeseen catastrophic emergencies.

Kolekole Pass is an alternate route for the public in emergency situations. The current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in place between JBPHH, United States Army Garrison Hawaii (USAG-HI), Hawaii Emergency Management, and the Department of Emergency Management establishes procedures for emergency vehicle access only through Kolekole Pass during extraordinary emergency circumstances with the discretion of the commanders. The Department of Transportation is actively engaged in drafting an amended MOU between the stakeholders which will include procedures for opening the Pass to the public in the event of an emergency evacuation.

HDOT has requested a right-of-entry from JBPHH and USAG-HI to construct improvements to Kolekole Pass which will enhance the safety of the route for its use in an emergency evacuation. The near-term improvements include rock scaling, rockfall fencing/barriers, pothole repairs, clearing overgrown vegetation, shoulder and centerline striping with reflective pavement markers, and signage. Construction is projected to start in the Fall 2025.

HDOT is also considering long-term improvements which would include permanent rock fall mitigation and installation and replacement of guardrail and will work with the Military on sharing this cost.

On February 5, 2025, a multi-agency Emergency Evacuation Exercise utilizing the Kolekole pass was conducted to test the plan for opening the Pass to accommodate an emergency evacuation. Participants included the US Navy, US Army, Hawaii DOT, Hawaii Emergency Management agency, and the City & County of Honolulu's Police Department, Fire Department and Department of Emergency Management. The results of this exercise will inform the framing of the amended MOU with procedures for opening and managing the pass for an emergency evacuation by the public.

The State of Hawaii Department of Transportation, in coordination with the Department of Defense and local emergency management agencies, is committed to further discussions and feasibility studies regarding the use of Kolekole Pass as an emergency evacuation route. We recognize the urgency of addressing emergency access needs and will work closely with stakeholders and continue to evaluate infrastructure requirements, legal considerations, and public safety measures necessary to move forward responsibly.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HCR 121  
REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, UNITED STATES ARMY, UNITED STATES NAVY, AND STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK WITH APPROPRIATE STATE AND COUNTY DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES TO EXPAND, PLAN, AND COORDINATE WORK RELATED TO USING KOLEKOLE PASS AS AN EXPANDED EMERGENCY EXIT ROUTE**

Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs  
Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Chair  
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts  
Senator Chris Lee, Chair  
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair

Friday, April 11, 2025 at 3:02 PM  
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Chairs Elefante and Lee, Vice Chairs Wakai and Inouye, and Members of the Committees:

The Hawaii Military Affairs Council ("MAC") **supports** HCR 121.

The MAC was established in 1985 when the Chamber was appointed by the State to serve as the liaison to the military. The MAC advocates on behalf of Hawaii's military, and is comprised of business leaders, academic institutions, State and County officials, members of the CODEL, community leaders, labor unions and organizations and retired U.S. flag and general officers. The MAC works to support Hawaii's location as a strategic U.S. headquarters in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region which is crucial for U.S. national and homeland security.

The MAC has been working with the Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT), Army Garrison Hawaii and Navy Region Hawaii to provide safe passage along Kolekole Pass in time of emergency, whether natural or man-made. There was a practice run with Hawaii Emergency Management Agency and partners in February. We are grateful to HDOT for making early investments in road improvements. The Army and Navy are committed to do their part and are requesting funds as a part of this partnership. The Hawaii Congressional Delegation is also a most supportive partner in this collective commitment to ensure that Oahu's westside community members will have an alternative road to get to safety in time of emergency.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support.

**HCR-121**

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 9:48:25 AM

Testimony for PSM on 4/11/2025 3:02:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire	Testifying for Kingdom Of The Hawaiian Islands & Ohana Unity Party	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Dear Honorable Esteemed Legislators of The Hawaiian Islands

I write with unwavering enthusiasm to support House Concurrent Resolution No. 121, which calls on the United States Department of Defense, United States Army, United States Navy, and State Department of Transportation to partner with state and county agencies to transform Kolekole Pass into an expanded emergency exit route. The Westside of O‘ahu desperately needs this access to protect its residents from life-threatening gridlocks and natural disasters—a need that grows more urgent by the day. Mahalo for your leadership in championing this vital cause!

Why Emergency Access Out of the Westside is Critical:

- **Single Road Vulnerability:** Approximately 50,000 residents rely solely on Farrington Highway, a single roadway that becomes a choke point during emergencies, trapping families in dangerous gridlocks.
- **Recent Disasters Prove the Stakes:** The August 2023 Lahaina fire killed 101 people, partly due to limited evacuation routes. On O‘ahu, a November 2023 Wai‘anae wildfire scorched 17 acres and threatened homes, exposing our own risk.
- **Population Pressure:** The Wai‘anae Coast’s growing population intensifies the strain on Farrington Highway, making alternative escape routes non-negotiable for survival during hurricanes, fires, or tsunamis.
- **A Lifeline Delayed is a Lifeline Denied:** Without Kolekole Pass, the Westside remains isolated, with no viable backup when disaster strikes—an unacceptable risk to human life.

Kolekole Pass: A Proven and Ready Solution:

- **Historical Precedent:** Built in the 1930s, this pass through the Wai‘anae mountains has served military and emergency needs for decades, connecting Nānākuli to Central Oahu.

- Recent Validation: A February 5, 2025, exercise with over 50 vehicles successfully tested the pass from Lualualei Naval Reservation to Schofield Barracks, proving its potential for civilian evacuation. Colonel Rachel Sullivan called it “a vital lifeline for the west side.”
- Community Support: Resident Tiana Wilbur said, “This has been a long time coming”—a sentiment shared by thousands who see Kolekole Pass as their best hope for safety.

#### Feasibility and Momentum Are on Our Side:

- Past Investments: Repairs after 2008 rains cost \$80 million for a one-way road, showing the pass’s resilience. Full public use might cost \$250 million, but emergency-only upgrades could be far less—a small price for lives saved.
- Federal Backing: The National Defense Authorization Act and Hawaii’s congressional delegation support such projects, aligning with a 2001 military-state agreement for emergency access.
- Collaborative Path Forward: HCR 121’s call for federal, state, and county coordination is the key to unlocking this route swiftly and effectively.

#### A Call to Action:

The Westside’s need for emergency access is not a future concern—it is a present crisis demanding immediate action. HCR 121 is more than a resolution; it’s a promise to protect our ohana from the next disaster. I urge you to rally behind this effort with all your strength and resources. The Department of Defense, military, and transportation agencies can make this happen, but they need your unwavering support to prioritize it now.

For further input or discussion, please contact me at [example.support@domain.com](mailto:example.support@domain.com) (mailto:example.support@domain.com). Mahalo nui loa for ensuring the Westside is no longer left stranded in times of crisis.

With urgent enthusiasm and aloha,

Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire, HRM

Ohana Unity Party, Chairman

[www.Ohanaunityparty.com](http://www.Ohanaunityparty.com)

Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands, H.I.

**HCR-121**

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 2:37:53 PM

Testimony for PSM on 4/11/2025 3:02:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Frank Schultz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this initiative.

**HCR-121**

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 9:59:32 AM

Testimony for PSM on 4/11/2025 3:02:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Patty Kahanamoku- Teruya	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Supporting Resolution

**LATE**

**HCR-121**

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 3:55:37 PM

Testimony for PSM on 4/11/2025 3:02:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
pamela anderson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HCR121 / HR117 REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, UNITED STATES ARMY, UNITED STATES NAVY, AND STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK WITH APPROPRIATE STATE AND COUNTY DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES TO EXPAND, PLAN, AND COORDINATE WORK RELATED TO USING KOLEKOLE PASS AS AN EXPANDED EMERGENCY EXIT ROUTE

I have lived on the West Side, Lualualei, since 1996. As a private citizen, I have seen and lived the many challenges I face as a resident living here. The amount of cars and people living here have substantially increased over the years. I have not seen any changes to support our safety in the event of a natural disaster nor basic challenges like severe impassable roads. I have lived through a standoff, kidnapping scenario; heavy rain, washing out of the roads making it impassible; deadly car accidents just to name a few that has fully SHUT DOWN Farrington Hwy - mind you our ONLY ROAD in/out of the West Side. We have only ONE ACCESS road which literally is no nowhere - except to Kolekole Pass. That ACCESS road (as it is called) requires traffic to be routed up through Hakimo Road, then returning down back onto Farrington Hwy, via Lualualei Magazine road (McDonalds) to return to Farrington Hwy. This is poor planning and definitely NOT SAFE for all of our residents on the entire West Side. We continue to fight for more access, but it falls on deaf ears. Please hear us. Please help us. I understand the critical role this pass plays as an emergency evacuation route and the potential it holds for easing traffic congestion in the area. Please help us to find a viable solution that addresses our concerns. Thank you for this opportunity to voice my support of HRC121/HR117. Mahalo nui

Pamela K Anderson

(808) 351-7281

87-155 Waiolu street, Waianae, HI 96792

**HCR-121**

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 7:06:11 PM

Testimony for PSM on 4/11/2025 3:02:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Austin Salcedo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In Strong Support of HCR121.

Long Overdue, imperative to eliminate "traffic grid lock" upon Farrington Hwy. Many real life past history, after reality Chaos, highway accidents, wildfire's, Emergency First Responder's in transit, natural weather disaster's that effects the only way In & Out of the entire Waianae Coast. That negatively impacted Westside community for Safety, Health being "stuck for long hours" in grid lock traffic with No other choice.