



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI
A HO'OMĀKA'IKA'I

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Statement of
JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Tuesday, March 25, 2025
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 430

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HCR121 / HR117

Chairs Kila and Belatti, Vice Chairs Grandinetti and Iwamoto, and Members of the Committees:

The Military and Community Relations Office of the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) is committed to working with the local community, Department of Defense, United States Army, United States Navy, State Department of Transportation, and other appropriate departments and agencies to continue discussions and planning to utilize Kolekole Pass as an expanded emergency exit route.

Providing this access route between Central Oahu and the Leeward Coast bolsters the safety of residents in vulnerable communities and fortifies the state's crisis and emergency plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**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.**

Committee on Transportation
Representative Darius K. Kila, Chair
Representative Tina Nakada Grandinetti, Vice Chair

Committee on Public Safety
Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Kim Coco Iwamoto, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 25, 2025 at 9:00 AM
Conference Room 430 & Videoconference
415 South Beretania Street

Chairs Kila and Belatti, Vice Chairs Grandinetti and Iwamoto, and Members of the Committees:

The Hawaii Military Affairs Council ("MAC") **supports** HCR121 / HR117.

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 Military Affairs Council has been working with the Hawaii Department of Transportation, 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.

HR-117

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 2:00:58 PM

Testimony for TRN on 3/25/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mike Golojuch, Sr.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HCR121. The Waianae Coast needs another exit from that portion of Oahu. Please pass HCR121 and its companion HR117.

HR-117

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 3:43:48 PM

Testimony for TRN on 3/25/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frank Schultz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this initiative.

COMMITTEE ON LABOR
Rep. Jackson D. Sayama, Chair
Rep. Mike Lee, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 25, 2025
9:30 AM
Via Videoconference/
Conference Room 309

Support of HR 175/HCR 179

Representative Sayama Chair Representative Lee, Vice Chair and members of the Committee:

I am Beverly Ann Gotelli, Chair, of the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA), which is an appointed board tasked with advising the Executive Office on Aging (EOA). My testimony does not represent the views of the EOA but of PABEA.

I STRONG SUPPORT of HR 175 /HCR 179 which convenes a legislative working group for a paid family and medical leave program for the state.

We are an aging population and must rely on our children to help with our well-being at the cost of losing their jobs.

It is important that the working group develop recommendations on a paid family leave policy and program that supports working family caregivers to better balance their job and family responsibilities, reducing their stress and allowing them to better support their loved ones

As I age, I wonder what will happen if I need my children to relocate so they can be my caregiver. Will this mean they will lose their current employment; will they be able to find a new job should they relocate. Will they be able to take paid family leave if available at their job site.

Having the working group may help alleviate some of the uncertainties that we are facing.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HC175/HCR 179.

Beverly Ann Gotelli
Chair, PABAEA
6286 Opaekaa Road
Kapaa, HI 96746

