



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HR43
URGING THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO WORK WITH STAKEHOLDERS TO CONSTRUCT
AN EMERGENCY ACCESS ROAD ON THE WAI'ANAE COAST.**

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

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

Chair Kila, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Military Affairs Council ("MAC") **supports** HR43.

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 Kulekole 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.

HR-43

Submitted on: 3/21/2025 2:12:30 PM

Testimony for TRN on 3/25/2025 9:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael I Rice	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I stand in SUPPORT of this resolution. I am a lifelong resident of the Waianae coast, I've grown up here and have noticed traffic always getting worse. I remember when a hostage situation lasting more than 12 hours shut down the entire Waianae coast. The response to that was to build an 'access road' less than 10 yards from where the hostage situation took place, and if the exact same situation had occurred, would have shut down the bypass road for safety reasons as well.

While projects like the widening of Farrington Highway and adding turn lanes along most of it (for some strange reason stopping sort of one of the worst choke points on this side of the island) and increasing public transit has helped in small amounts to help alleviate traffic, it is not enough. The Bypass Roads put in help slightly in situations when they are authorized to be open but they are not a solution and only help in certain situations.

A proper bypass road is long overdue for Waianae, however I would urge that this bypass road be constructed with the intention of being permanently open and not locked behind a gate or past a military checkpoint. While repairing Kolekole Pass would be excellent for use by the military and in Emergencies, other options must also be considered, including the building of tunnels or passes over/through the mountains.

HR-43

Submitted on: 3/21/2025 2:24:12 PM

Testimony for TRN on 3/25/2025 9:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this important bill. Mahalo.

HR-43

Submitted on: 3/21/2025 2:34:46 PM

Testimony for TRN on 3/25/2025 9:10:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support this initiative.

HR-43

Submitted on: 3/21/2025 2:40:05 PM

Testimony for TRN on 3/25/2025 9:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terri Yoshinaga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

HR-43

Submitted on: 3/21/2025 5:02:45 PM

Testimony for TRN on 3/25/2025 9:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gary K Cariaga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My is Gary K Cariaga and I'm a long time resident of the Waianae Coast. I am in full support of bill HR43. Creating an emergency access road for the Waianae Coast would be of great benefit and could possibly be a Life Saver for our residents. Having lived through Hurricanes Iwa and Iniki our Coastline was devastated, Trapping residents from Makaha to Nanakuli because of falling telephone poles that carries our electricity and debris from trees and homes that covered Farrington Hwy. I remember when I was younger Kolekole pass was used for emergency access but that has since closed due to erosion if not mistaken. I would recommend a tunnel similar to the H3, Somewhere through the Waianae mountain Range and connect to Kunia Rd. But that's just a suggestion. I'll support whatever design you may have as long as it's safe for those who will construct it and also safe for our residents of the Waianae Coast. Excited for the outcome!

May Our God Bless Each and Everyone of You.

Aloha

HR-43

Submitted on: 3/22/2025 4:38:50 PM

Testimony for TRN on 3/25/2025 9:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Judy Ilar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a must.

HR-43

Submitted on: 3/23/2025 8:12:54 PM

Testimony for TRN on 3/25/2025 9:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tanya L Kaahaaina	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support any progress forward to get Waianae an emergency access road.

HR-43

Submitted on: 3/24/2025 8:23:14 AM

Testimony for TRN on 3/25/2025 9:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelli Timoteo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is **Kelli Timoteo**, and I am submitting this testimony in **strong support** of HR 43.

As a proud resident of Wai‘anae, I am deeply concerned about the safety and well-being of our community. We cannot wait for a tragedy to force action — **Wai‘anae cannot become another Lahaina**. The devastating fire in Lahaina showed us how dangerous it is when a community has limited or no emergency escape routes. We must learn from that tragedy and do better for our people.

Right now, there is only **one road** in and out of the Wai‘anae Coast. If a fire, natural disaster, or major accident blocks that road, we will be trapped. Our keiki, our kūpuna, our families — all at risk. This is not just a concern — it’s a **crisis waiting to happen**.

We deserve infrastructure that protects our lives, just like any other community on this island. An emergency access road isn’t a luxury — it’s a **lifeline**. For too long, Wai‘anae has been underserved, underfunded, and ignored when it comes to critical infrastructure. That ends now.

I respectfully urge the City and County of Honolulu to work **urgently** with stakeholders and our community to **build an emergency access road**. We cannot afford to be reactive — we must be proactive. Our lives depend on it.

Mahalo for your time and commitment to protecting our community.

With aloha,

Kelli Timoteo

Resident, Wai‘anae Coast

HR-43

Submitted on: 3/24/2025 8:41:41 AM

Testimony for TRN on 3/25/2025 9:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Trysti Kawaiaea	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Trysti Kawaiaea, and I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HR 43.

As a proud resident of Wai‘anae, I am deeply concerned about the safety and well-being of our community. We cannot wait for a tragedy to force action — Wai‘anae cannot become another Lahaina. The devastating fire in Lahaina showed us how dangerous it is when a community has limited or no emergency escape routes. We must learn from that tragedy and do better for our people.

Right now, there is only one road in and out of the Wai‘anae Coast. If a fire, natural disaster, or major accident blocks that road, we will be trapped. Our keiki, our kūpuna, our families — all at risk. This is not just a concern — it’s a crisis waiting to happen.

We deserve infrastructure that protects our lives, just like any other community on this island. An emergency access road isn’t a luxury — it’s a lifeline. For too long, Wai‘anae has been underserved, underfunded, and ignored when it comes to critical infrastructure. That ends now.

I respectfully urge the City and County of Honolulu to work urgently with stakeholders and our community to build an emergency access road. We cannot afford to be reactive — we must be proactive. Our lives depend on it.

Mahalo for your time and commitment to protecting our community.

With aloha,

Trysti Kawaiaea

Resident, Wai‘anae Coast