

# HB 1378, HD1

## RELATING TO HIGHWAYS.

Requires the Department of Transportation to develop plans for the construction of secondary access roads for the Waianae district of leeward Oahu. Appropriates funds. (HB1378 HD1)

TULSI GABBARD  
2ND DISTRICT, HAWAII

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
SEAPOWERS AND PROJECTION FORCES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

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March 13, 2017

Hawaii State Capitol  
Senate Transportation and Energy Committee  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**RE: Testimony in Support of H.B. 1378 Relating to Highways**

Aloha Chair Inouye and Members of the State of Hawai'i Senate Transportation and Energy Committee,

Thank you for your consideration of H.B. 1378 that would require the Department of Transportation to develop plans for the construction of secondary access roads for the Wai'anae district on O'ahu. I support this measure and urge you to vote in favor of H.B. 1378.

The careful assessment of tangible solutions to alleviate the traffic burden for residents on the Leeward Coast is long overdue and greatly needed. A secondary access way to serve the roughly 43,000 residents in the area is necessary for both the safety and the livelihood of my constituents.

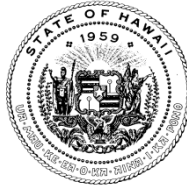
In the event of an emergency or natural disaster requiring evacuation of the Leeward Coast, Farrington Highway is the only way in or out. In recent years, Farrington Highway has been partially or completely shut down several times due to incidents involving accidents, severe weather, and other emergency conditions.

I have heard from people who are in anguish over the fact that they cannot send their children to the schools they want to go because it would take too long to drive them into town. I have heard from workers who barely spend time at home because they must wake up early in the morning to go to work and come back very late at night.

Traffic alleviation must be sought to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the people of the Leeward Coast. We cannot deny that the status quo levies a great cost to this community. We must not let that cost continue to burden future generations to come. Please support H.B. 1378. Mahalo for your consideration.



TULSI GABBARD  
Member of Congress (HI-02)



**Testimony by:**  
FORD N. FUCHIGAMI  
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors  
JADE T. BUTAY  
ROSS M. HIGASHI  
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN  
DARRELL T. YOUNG

IN REPLY REFER TO:

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

March 15, 2017  
1:15 PM  
State Capitol, Room 225

**H.B. 1378, H.D. 1**  
**RELATING TO HIGHWAYS**

Senate Committee on Transportation and Energy

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The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** the intent of this bill.

The DOT is currently in the procurement phase to conduct a corridor study of the Nanakuli, Maili, Waianae, and Makaha corridor. The scope of the study is to assess and provide recommendations to provide a second access into and out of the area, reduce congestion, increase capacity, and improve safety. The study will also consider the following modes of transportation: freight, vehicular, transit, bike and pedestrian modes.

The DOT recommends this corridor study be completed for the purpose to leverage federal funds for the proposed projects identified in the study. The corridor study is estimated to take two years to complete.

At this time, funding to construct a secondary access road is not available. As such, we believe that options that consider building new roads outside of the existing corridor will be considered infeasible. We recommend that funds appropriated for this effort be allowed to be used for planning, design, construction and operation to provide the most flexibility.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 13, 2017 1:11 AM  
**To:** TRE Testimony  
**Cc:** kimcoco@kimcoco.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1378 on Mar 15, 2017 13:15PM

**HB1378**

Submitted on: 3/13/2017

Testimony for TRE on Mar 15, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kim Coco Iwamoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please accept this testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HB1378. My family lives in the Nuuanu Ahapuaa and will not be directly impacted by the secondary access road. However, whenever I hear or read news reports that the roadway in and out of the Waianae Coast is closed my heart breaks for all those working families who need to get to work or get home to take care of their keiki or kupuna. We would never allow families in Hawaii Kai to be so easily, or so completely, cut off. Thank you for supporting this important bill.

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I SUPPORT HB1378 WHICH Requires the Department of Transportation to develop plans and initiate the procurement process for the construction of secondary access roads for the Waianae district of leeward Oahu. Appropriates funds.

I'll make this short.

There has been way to many traffic problems in Waianae. We need another access in and out of Waianae. I've lived her for over forty years and no major improvements have occurred. There has been changes but no significant relief. As each year passes by, traffic seems to get worst. It will never get any better because of population growth and community expansions. We need another access to support the growth in Waianae.

Besides, the emergency access road does not really help during real emergencies. there is always a backlog of cars trying to get out. it take hours if not the whole day to clear. The current emergency access road only leads back to Farrington. The backroads all leads back to farrington. it's does not help during emergencies.

Thank you.

FERDINAND AGOSTOSA  
87-129 SAINT JOHNS ROAD  
WAIANAЕ HI 96792  
808-668-2832

March 15, 2017

**TO: Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair**

**Committee on Transportation and Energy**

**RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1378 HD1: Relating to Highways**

**SUBMITTED BY:** Gail Gomes

**Aloha Chair Inouye and Vice Chair Dela Cruz and Committee Members:**

My name is Gail Gomes and I am a forty plus year resident of the Wai'anae Coast. I am the editor of our local community newspaper, *Westside Stories*, however today I am submitting testimony as an individual.

I am requesting your support of **HB1378 HD1** to appropriate the funds to the Department of Transportation (DOT) for planning and procurement for construction of secondary access road or roads that will pass through the Westside of O'ahu (the moku of Wai'anae) and to serve as alternative routes to Farrington Highway for travel within, into, and out of the Westside. I would respectfully submit that the bill be amended a bit from "*Waianae district*" means *the leeward coast of Oahu from Nanakuli to Kaena point that is enclosed by the leeward slopes of the Waianae mountain range* to **from Kapolei/Honokai Hale to Ka'ena Pt** as currently we are unable to access our Westside once we leave the Kapolei/Makakilo/Honokai Hale areas

This was sadly highlighted on all three local news stations recently as there was a fatal accident near the Kapolei off ramp. No one was able to enter or leave the entire Westside of O'ahu including those living/working in Ko Olina and Honokai Hale. Families were unable to pick up their children from school, come home from work and City bus service came to a halt. Emergency vehicles had to have police escorts through the traffic (both westbound and eastbound) as traffic was literally stopped for hours so HPD could complete their investigation and the medical examiner could arrive on the scene and attend to their duties.

For too long "Westiders" have been "held hostage" by Farrington Highway. It doesn't seem to matter what day of the week it is, there is always traffic backed up for at least one half mile due to traffic lights. On weekdays, we now have a contra-flow lane from 3:30 to 6:30 pm to aid westbound drivers to get home (from traffic that backs up to Kapolei) but now eastbound drivers are forced into one lane and traffic backs up for at least a mile if not more taking a minimum of 45 minutes to an hour to leave the Westside. Many of the teachers at the various schools now have given up tutoring time or extra-curricular activities to avoid the traffic mess.

In case of a natural disaster (tsunami warning), Farrington Hwy is closed by Department of Emergency Management at Honokai Hale. I personally was stuck in the "giant parking lot" that was Farrington Hwy and had to turn around and go to Makakilo to wait out the warning. Not fun with 2 small children in the car! We have had the same area closed due to flooding and school children who attend school off the Westside (Kamehameha Schools and other private schools) were stuck for hours on their school bus.

We have had hostage situations at Nānākuli Avenue and Farrington Hwy and no one could exit or enter the Westside until that situation was resolved (8 hours). We have had gas trucks catch on fire at St. Rita's Church (5 hours). Recently we had a water main break near St. Rita's Church and vehicular traffic had to be routed through Kalaniana'ole Beach Park. City busses and large trucks were stuck and couldn't access our area with necessary food and gasoline supplies.

There were the two hurricanes, Iwa and Iniki which shut Farrington down totally for up to two weeks. Emergency services were able to open only one lane and we had staggered times we could enter/leave the coast.

Sad to say, road rage does occur and that often leads to accidents. At least once a week, Farrington is closed for accidents and while HPD investigates the scenes, drivers are forced to wait in their cars. This past week, March 6 to March 12, we had **six** major accidents that closed down various sections of Farrington Highway. Sad to say we also had **three** pedestrian related accidents — at least one of them was fatal.

In addition, our emergency vehicles are forced to sit in traffic while trying to either get to the scene of an accident or transport an injured person to a trauma center after being stabilized at our Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center. During peak traffic times, this is impossible.

Our current "Emergency Access Route" is woefully inadequate. As we learned **twice** last week, accidents happening on Farrington Hwy fronting Kamehameha School's Community Learning Center Nānākuli/Ka Waihona o ka Na'auao PCS, there is no emergency access route off our Westside from Lualualei Naval Road (prior to the accident scene). Once again, folks were unable to get to work/school and were "stranded" for over three hours.

I am urging everyone on this committee to **please support HB 1378 HD1** to appropriate the funds to the Department of Transportation (DOT) for planning and procurement for construction of secondary access route, a necessary and vital source for our Westside community.

Mahalo,  
Gail Gomes  
86-232 Alamihi St  
Waianae HI 96792  
696-6782 (home) 696-7978 (work)

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, March 10, 2017 3:21 PM  
**To:** TRE Testimony  
**Cc:** mendezj@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1378 on Mar 15, 2017 13:15PM\*

**HB1378**

Submitted on: 3/10/2017

Testimony for TRE on Mar 15, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Aloha,

I am writing in support of HB 1378 H D1 to help bring traffic relief for the Wai'anae Coast residents. I support the initiative to urge the Department of Transportation to design and plan, but most all, begin construction on a secondary access route for the leeward coast of Wai'anae.

I moved to Makaha in 1982 and resided here until 1992. I returned in 2006 and was appalled to see there had been little changes in the leeward coast infrastructure and highway over the 14 years I was away. Living in Makaha is like living in a cul-de-sac. One way in, one way out!

Not only is this concept a safety issue for the leeward coast residents, it is not in keeping with road construction and planning in the 21st century!

With the scarcity of affordable homes on Oahu, the leeward coast population is growing. Adding to the traffic problems is the lack of jobs on the Wai'anae coast. Adding more homes and businesses in Kapolei is a double-edged sword. Although closer jobs are available to the leeward residents, motorists still must get in and out of Wai'anae to make a living. For those residents who have jobs past Kapolei, they must first fight to get in and out of Wai'anae and secondly fight the increased traffic on H-1. Since the rail starts in Kapolei, it will have little impact on reducing any day to day leeward coast traffic.

Adding the new left hand turning lanes hopefully will help traffic to flow smoother. However, one traffic light outage, road construction/maintenance reducing a lane, vehicle breakdown, accident, or (the worst) a fatality, causes the entire coast to back up to Kalaeloa and beyond! This is unacceptable to motorists trying to reach their destinations.

A second access road will greatly improve the quality of lives of motorists of the leeward coast. I ask that this bill be passed so Wai'anae can be brought into the 21st century!

Tara Hopewell

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 14, 2017 4:28 PM  
**To:** TRE Testimony  
**Cc:** hawaiifishingfanatic@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1378 on Mar 15, 2017 13:15PM\*

**HB1378**

Submitted on: 3/14/2017

Testimony for TRE on Mar 15, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Don Aweau	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 14, 2017 7:32 PM  
**To:** TRE Testimony  
**Cc:** tasha96792@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1378 on Mar 15, 2017 13:15PM

**HB1378**

Submitted on: 3/14/2017

Testimony for TRE on Mar 15, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Natasha Boteilho	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha My name is Natasha Boteilho, a resident of Waianae. I am pleading for you help in developing a 2nd access and/or funding for an alternate road for the residents of the Leeward Coast. I am telling you, enough is enough. The studies have been done, action needs to be taken, even in the case of imminent domain. It is unfair for our families to suffer anymore from the traffic nightmares that continue to plaque us, especially now when our communities are growing but not our infrastructure. We need our access road now. Mahanoy Natasha

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Joseph Ka'ahema Simpliciano  
86-194 Leihoku street  
Waianae, Hi 96792  
(808) 291-5527

Aloha,

My name is Joseph Ka'ahema Simpliciano and I strongly oppose HB 1378! I strongly oppose HB 1378 because this is in reality a Trojan horse. The people who supports this Bill in office has one thing in common and that is either all about development, not caring about people just like Rep Brower did with pretending to be attacked by homeless people when he was actually an instigator. It is proven that some of the people who support this bill has been helping developers and public utilities. This road to makakilo does not solve any traffic problems for the people on the Westside because it would cost a ton of taxpayers money (my money too) to maintain a road that is already outdated. I am talking about all of the Waianae emergency access roads that will be repurposed for this, I ask myself how is this possible. My senator and counsel member was given three million dollars each to use towards this emergency access road and just like the million dollar "bridge to nowhere" in nanakuli the taxpayers are still not able to use these roads daily. Taxation is theft especially at the hands of people who are not in office for the people. The supporters outside of my district has zero knowledge about what we go through each day, why are they supporting it? I ask myself each day why did we not get a tunnel through the mountain that would connect us with central Oahu as explained here.

<http://www.oahumpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Waianae-Connector-Road-Concept-Study-20010827.pdf>

The reason why we did not get this or this did not manifest itself onto any bill by our representative is because there will be no money to be made by any developer. Please don't forget that my representative has been assisting developer Jeff stone in Waianae procuring deals in order to develop.

Let's not also forget that my representative LIED about being a member of the Democratic Party at the time of his election.

In closing the road to makakilo does nothing to relieve the day to day congestion of what we go through every day. If a fire was to break out again like it has been doing historically, this road will be closed and people will still be trapped in Waianae. Not to mention kolekole pass has a lot of potential where each road connects to one of our valleys making the use of Farrington highway almost nonexistent. This is a waste of taxpayers' money, point blank. Why are they worried about this road when they still have not figured out how to keep our pedestrians safe? They haven't figured out how to turn the street lights on, on the beach side of nanakuli, huliawa beach and Waianae's sewers beach. How do we trust or expect what our representative want to do it is innocent? You cannot because he sat on the Waianae's transportation board and all of the same problems he is addressing now is what he have been doing for years. I think he is waiting for someone else to start doing it so he can come down and take pictures to show everyone else that he was doing something. True? Yes very true. So please don't waste anymore taxpayer's money on an opportunist dream.

Respectfully,

Joseph Ka'ahema Simpliciano

Joseph Ka'ahema Simpliciano

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 14, 2017 3:11 PM  
**To:** TRE Testimony  
**Cc:** creighton.higa@icloud.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1378 on Mar 15, 2017 13:15PM

**HB1378**

Submitted on: 3/14/2017

Testimony for TRE on Mar 15, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
C. Pono Higa	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: The concerns for needed transportation relief shared by residents of the Waianae coast have been exhausted and exacerbated for far too long. The question of needing an alternative means of transportation to service the Waianae coast is no longer uncertain. The people of West Oahu need resolve. It comes down to identifying a possible solution, funding its plan, design, and construction. I am in support of the intent of HB1378 HD1 Section 2.(a) “the department of transportation shall develop plans for construction of secondary access roads to serve as alternative routes to Farrington highway for travel within, into, and out of the Waianae district of Oahu. Plans shall include route maps, timelines for implementation, measures to avoid or mitigate disruption of access to currently available routes, and any other information the department deems necessary.” However, I feel its intent is being met by an existing State of Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) project proposal, “Farrington Highway (Route 93) Corridor Study,” in reference to the department’s Request for Proposal (RFP) Scope of Work Information document published November 30, 2016. Similar language relating to the plight of Waianae coast transportation issues, study objectives, and outcomes is shared both in the RFP as well as HB1378. Although, the RFP does not wait until the year 2030 to begin such plans. I stand on the previous written testimony of the State of Hawaii Department of Transportation. In fact, per the Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization’s (OahuMPO) Draft Transportation Improvement Program 2015-2018 Revision #15, the “Farrington Highway (Route 93) Corridor Study” intends to encumber a total of \$500,000, of which will comprise 80 percent federal funds and 20 percent local funds within FFY 2017. Reference: 1. State of Hawaii Department of Transportation Request for Proposal Scope of Work Information, <http://spo3.hawaii.gov/notices/notices/none-1/getfile?filename=scope-of-work-farrington-highway-corridor-study.pdf> 2. Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization Draft Transportation Improvement Program 2015-2018 Revision #15, <http://www.oahumpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/15-18-TIP-Revision-15-FHWA.pdf>

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