

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/15/2017
Time: 02:00 PM
Location: 309
Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 0491 RELATING TO SIDEWALKS.

Purpose of Bill: Establishes and funds a two-year pilot school sidewalk maintenance and repair program that requires counties to maintain and repair sidewalks in school zones or other areas of significant school related pedestrian traffic. Requires each county to report on the status of the pilot program.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (DOE) fully supports bill HB 0491. The DOE agrees that such a policy would make it safer for students, staff, and the community when walking to and from school. If the areas around schools were truly walkable it would provide an alternative for some who currently drive their children to school. This could reduce vehicular traffic around the school and further increase the safety of our students. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on HB491.



Date: February 14, 2017

To: The Honorable Roy M. Takumi, Chair
The Honorable Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Education

From: Jessica Yamauchi, Executive Director, Hawai'i Public Health Institute

Re: **Support for HB 491, Relating to Sidewalks**

Hrg: February 15, 2017 at 2:00 pm at Capitol Room 309

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of HB 491, which would pilot a two-year program for the maintenance and repair of school sidewalks.

Created by the legislature in 2012, the Obesity Prevention Task Force is comprised of over 20 statewide organizations, and works to make recommendations to reshape Hawai'i's school, work, community, and health care environments, making healthier lifestyles obtainable for all Hawai'i residents. The Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI) convenes the Task Force and supports and promotes policy efforts to create a healthy Hawai'i.

HB 491 fast tracks the repair and maintenance of our school sidewalks. Having complete sidewalks allow all children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school safely. Many communities in Hawaii struggle with traffic congestion around schools and motor vehicle emissions polluting the environment. At the same time, children engage in less physical activity, which contributes to the prevalence of childhood obesity.

Making routes safer for children to bike and walk to school benefits the entire community and environment. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jessica Yamauchi'.

Jessica Yamauchi, MA
Chair, Obesity Prevention Task Force
Executive Director, HIPHI

EDNtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 12, 2017 12:42 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: emia@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB491 on Feb 15, 2017 14:00PM

HB491

Submitted on: 2/12/2017

Testimony for EDN on Feb 15, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Emi Akutsu | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: It is necessary to promote school children to walk safely to their schools.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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EDNtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2017 8:42 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: jamesjtz@aol.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB491 on Feb 15, 2017 14:00PM*

HB491

Submitted on: 2/11/2017

Testimony for EDN on Feb 15, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| James Gauer | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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