



TESTIMONY BY:
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
DREANALEE K. KALILI
TAMMY L. LEE
ROBIN K. SHISHIDO
JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA



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

March 16, 2023

3:00 P.M.

State Capitol, Room 224, Videoconference

H.B. 600, H.D. 1
RELATING TO SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports the intent** of H.B. 600, H.D. 1 and offers comments. H.B. 600, H.D. 1 establishes an additional committee that would be connected to the Department for administrative purposes only to advise the State on strategies to ensure that each child in the State is able to safely bike, walk, roll or bus to school. It also appropriates funds to hire additional staffing, including one full-time Safe Routes to School program coordinator, procure facilities and equipment necessary to support the Safe Routes to School advisory committee, and match federal funding for sidewalks.

Providing a safe transportation system is integral to the DOT's mission and safety is addressed in every project that is implemented. While the DOT supports creating and maintaining a transportation system that provides safe mobility for all modes and users, we are concerned that this bill creates processes that are duplicative and would conflict with the DOT's existing efforts.

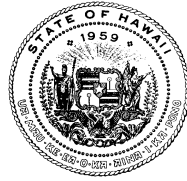
Safety is the State's #1 priority. We have reported on our robust educational enforcement and engineering programs which we implemented to successfully save lives over years. We are proud partners with all counties who are equally dedicated to zero deaths on our roadways. We meet regularly with the four counties and metropolitan planning organizations to discuss project implementation, safety focus, and opportunities for funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funding and programs, including discretionary grant opportunities for safety such as Safe Streets and Roads for All. In this past federal fiscal year, DOT transferred \$25,000,000 to the four counties to provide funding for transit rolling stock and bus operations. The DOT will be providing up to \$60,000,000 of additional funding this fiscal year.

The problem DOT has is not lack of process, but a lack of funding. Additional funds dedicated specifically to bicycling and pedestrian safety are key to improving alternative modes of transportation. The DOT recommends appropriating \$50,000,000 in general funds to the DOT to address bicycle and pedestrian facilities on State and County

transportation systems. The funding could be utilized immediately to advance the highest priority initiatives as identified by legislators, community members, and existing bike and ped plans from counties and the State.

The DOT supports the intent of this measure to improve safety for vulnerable users of the system. Establishing a one-time infusion of capital specifically for this improvement, and a committee to recommend improvements would be beneficial to the communities we serve and advance the State's Vision Zero approach.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
P.O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony COMMENTING on H.B. 600, H.D. 1
RELATING TO SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL**

SENATOR CHRIS LEE, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Hearing Date: March 16, 2023

Room Number: Conference Room 224

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health (DOH) defers to the Department of
2 Transportation (DOT) for fiscal implications of implementation.

3 **Department Testimony:** The DOH offers comments on House Bill 600, House Draft 1
4 (H.B. 600, H.D. 1) which would establish the Safe Routes to school (SRTS) advisory committee
5 to develop a comprehensive statewide SRTS plan to advise the State on strategies to ensure that
6 each child in the State is able to safely, bike, walk, roll, or bus to that child's respective school
7 and appropriates funds for the DOT to hire additional staffing, procure facilities and equipment
8 necessary to support the SRTS advisory committee, and match federal funding for sidewalks.

9 Physical activity is essential to the development of the whole child and in establishing
10 positive health behaviors throughout the lifespan.¹ In 2019, just 13% of Hawaii High School
11 students and 17% of Hawaii Middle School students met the federal guidelines for physical
12 activity.^{2,3} SRTS programs create communities where children and people of all ages can walk,

¹ Elliott, E., Greenberg, J., Battista, R., Guerrero, H.G. (2021). Physical Activity Recommendations for Children and Adolescents: More Important Than Ever. US Physical Activity Alliance. Washington, DC: US.

² Hawaii State Departments of Health and Education, Hawaii Health Data Warehouse, Youth Risk Behavior Survey. '[Physical activity - meet federal guidelines, High Schools, State-level, 2019].' Hawaii-IBIS <http://ibis.hhdw.org/ibisph-view>. Accessed on [January 27, 2023].

³ Hawaii State Departments of Health and Education, Hawaii Health Data Warehouse, Youth Risk Behavior Survey. '[Physical Activity - meet federal guidelines, Middle Schools, State-Level, 2019].' Hawaii-IBIS <http://ibis.hhdw.org/ibisph-view>. Accessed on [January 27, 2023].

1 bike, and roll safely and are associated with increased active transportation, including an increase
2 in the number of students walking or biking to and from school.

3 While state level data is limited, the proportion of students across the United States from
4 kindergarten to grade eight who walk or bike to school fell from 48% in 1969 to only 13% in
5 2009.⁴ In Hawaii, 34% of high school and 38% of middle school students reported they walked
6 or rode their bikes to or from school one or more days on average, and rates are lower for the
7 neighbor island counties.⁵ A 2014 evaluation of several state-level SRTS projects found that
8 they were associated with significant increases in active school travel (from 12.9 percent to 17.6
9 percent), walking (from 9.8 percent to 14.2 percent) and bicycling (from 2.5 percent to 3.0
10 percent).⁶ SRTS efforts are also important for advancing equity to create safer conditions for
11 children and families with disabilities or who live in low-income neighborhoods.⁷

12 H.B. 600, H.D. 1 is aligned with the DOH Healthy Hawaii Strategic Plan 2030 and
13 addresses the physical activity objectives to increase the miles of low stress bicycle and
14 pedestrian infrastructure across the state, and for the state and each county to identify and adopt
15 mode-share goals and measurements that prioritize walking, wheelchairs, and bicycling. The
16 DOH supports the implementation of the Department of Education (DOE) Wellness Guidelines
17 and conducts a yearly Safety and Wellness Survey that evaluates the implementation of the
18 guidelines in all DOE schools. The DOE Wellness Guidelines include objectives to support
19 active transport by encouraging students and staff to walk and/or bike to school.

⁴ McDonald, N.C., Brown, A.L., Marchetti, L.M., & Pedroso, M.S. (2011). U.S. school travel, 2009 an assessment of trends. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 41(2), 146–51. doi: 10.1016/j.amepre.2011.04.006

⁵ Hawaii State Departments of Education and Health, [Hawaii Health Data Warehouse, Hawaii School Health Survey: Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2015, 2017, 2019 Active Transport](#). Accessed 2-08-2023.

⁶ Stewart O, Moudon AV, Claybrooke C. Multistate evaluation of Safe Routes to School Programs. *Am J Health Promotion* 2014;28(Suppl 3): S89–96.

⁷ Zimmerman S, Lieberman M, Kramer K, Sadler B. At the intersection of active transportation and equity: Joining forces to make communities healthier and fairer. 2015.

1 The DOH looks forward to continued collaboration with the DOT and commits to
2 actively participate in the SRTS advisory committee if established, to ensure that health metrics
3 and health equity are included in any performance measures.

4 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

5 **Offered Amendments:** None

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 03/16/2023

Time: 03:00 PM

Location: CR 224 & Videoconference

Committee: Senate Transportation and
Culture and the Arts

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 0600, HD1 RELATING TO SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL.

Purpose of Bill: Establishes the safe routes to school advisory committee within the planning branch of the highways division of the department of transportation. Appropriates moneys. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education supports HB 600, HD1, and its goal to secure safe routes for biking, rolling, walking, and public transit to Hawaii's public schools but defers to the Department of Transportation as to the viability of establishing a committee within their department.

Establishing a work group with one full-time coordinator provides an opportunity for a focused effort on a strategic plan with a broader array of transportation options that service various groups and scenarios.

Pursuant to Section 8-27-4, Hawaii Administrative Rules, elementary students that live within one mile of their home school and secondary students that live within one and a half miles of their home school are not eligible for transportation. This measure has the potential to provide safe and secure alternatives for getting to and from school for those that live within the walk zone and are not eligible for transportation. Families are often uncomfortable allowing their children to walk alone but cannot walk with them because of employment obligations or other factors. Families living within the walk zone will choose to drive their children to school instead, which causes chronic traffic congestion during morning and afternoon drop-offs.

Transportation to and from school is a common barrier to full participation for students in unstable housing or identified as homeless under the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. Existing transportation options do not always meet the needs of these students, especially if rides are needed before and after school to participate fully in non-school hour programming.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543
March 16, 2023

The Honorable Senator Chris Lee, Chair
Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts
The Thirty-Second Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senator Lee and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: HB600 HD1 RELATING TO SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL.

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **SUPPORTS HB600 HD1**, which establishes the safe routes to school advisory committee within the planning branch of the highways division of the department of transportation. Appropriates moneys.

Establishing safer routes not only benefits keiki and kupuna but other members of the community who use ground transportation, including those with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities. Safe and accessible walkways allow those with I/DD to have more freedom of travel and promote independence. Safe routes also allow better integration and interaction between those with I/DD and members of the community. We implore you to pass this bill to ensure safe access for our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of HB600 HD1**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daintry Bartoldus".

Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION & ADAPTATION
COMMISSION
POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Co-Chairs:
Chair, DLNR
Director, OPSD

Commissioners:
Chair, Senate AEN
Chair, Senate WTL
Chair, House EEP
Chair, House WAL
Chairperson, HTA
Chairperson, DOA
CEO, OHA
Chairperson, DHHL
Director, DBEDT
Director, DOT
Director, DOH
Chairperson, DOE
Director, C+C DPP
Director, Maui DP
Director, Hawai'i DP
Director, Kaua'i DP
The Adjutant General
Manager, CZM

**Testimony of
Leah Laramee
Coordinator, Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission**

**Before the Senate Committee on
TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS**

**Thursday, March 16, 2023
3:00 PM
State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 224**

**In support of
House Bill 600 HD1
RELATING TO SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL**

House Bill 600 HD1 establishes the safe routes to school advisory committee and appropriates funds. **The Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (Commission) offers the following comments in support of this measure.**

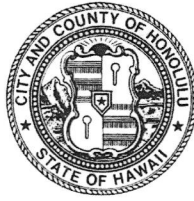
Access to safe, accessible walkways and bikeways delivers on Hawai'i's climate, equity, and public health goals. The Commission's report Investing in Transportation Choices: Recommendations for Safe, Sustainable, Affordable, and Reliable Mobility states that projects to address dangerous intersections such as Safe Routes to Schools and Parks, traffic calming, and shared-use paths are underfunded in Hawai'i. The Commission recognizes we need more significant investments in pedestrian, bicycle, and transit facilities. Moving people around with safer and sustainable transportation options that integrate walking, bicycling, rolling, transit, and wheelchair use while connecting routes to all of a region's geographic areas can improve community development, foster economic revitalization, link people to the health care system, schools, and jobs, improve air quality and help address climate change.

There is no single solution to bettering built environments. Instead, community, state and federal governments, along with advocacy groups and community members, must work together to implement policies and guide investments that will allow for people to feel safe while navigating their cities and towns outside of personal vehicles. Establishing the safe routes to school advisory committee is a good first step in achieving this.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment in support of this measure.

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET · HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 529-3111 · INTERNET: www.honolulu.org



RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR

ARTHUR J. LOGAN
CHIEF

KEITH K. HORIKAWA
RADE K. VANIC
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE ST-TK

March 16, 2023

The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair
and Members
Committee on Transportation and
Culture and the Arts
State Senate
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 224
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Lee and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill No. 600, H.D. 1, Relating to Safe Routes to School

I am Stason Tanaka, Major of the Traffic Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD supports House Bill No. 600, H.D. 1, Relating to Safe Routes to School.

The HPD supports the proposal to establish a safe routes to school advisory committee and all measures that increase the safety of pedestrians.

Implementing this program can assist in reducing the congestion on our roadways. Should this bill pass, the implementation of safe passages encourages other forms of transportation such as walking, bicycling, skateboarding, etc. The program and committee may also find viable solutions to help reduce the number of pedestrian-related fatalities each year.

The HPD urges you to support House Bill No. 600, H.D. 1, Relating to Safe Routes to School. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

APPROVED:

Sincerely,



Arthur J. Logan
Chief of Police


Stason Tanaka, Major
Traffic Division

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

711 KAPIOLANI BOULEVARD, SUITE 1600
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
Phone: (808) 768-8305 • Fax: (808) 768-4730 • Internet: www.honolulu.gov

RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR



J. ROGER MORTON
DIRECTOR

JON Y. NOUCHI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

TESTIMONY OF J. ROGER MORTON
DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS
Thursday, March 16, 2023, 3:00 PM, Via Videoconference

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

RE: SUPPORT FOR HOUSE BILL 600, HOUSE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL, WITH COMMENTS

The Department of Transportation Services (DTS) of the City and County of Honolulu (City) supports the intent of House Bill 600, House Draft 1, relating to safe routes to school (SRTS), with the following comments.

DTS reiterates the State Department of Transportation's (HDOT) commitment and partnership with the counties to achieve zero deaths on our roadways, and the concern that the bill may create processes that are duplicative with the efforts of HDOT and the counties.

DTS strongly supports the bill's proposal to include the City's SRTS program coordinator on the advisory committee to provide input and collaborate on the development of a comprehensive statewide safe routes to school program. DTS further recommends including students attending all elementary schools in the proposed Section (b)(4).

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments.



**Maui Metropolitan
Planning Organization**

200 South High Street
Wailuku, HI 96793
www.mauiempo.org

March 14, 2023

Testimony of Pamela Eaton
Maui MPO Executive Director
On behalf of Maui MPO Policy Board

Before the Senate Committee on Transportation, and Culture and the Arts

March 16, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.
Conference Room 224

HB 600 HD 1
Honorable Chris Lee, Chair
Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation, and Culture and the Arts

The Maui MPO **supports** HB600, HD 1. This measure will establish a statewide Safe Routes to School (SRTS) committee, full time coordinator and develop a strategic plan within the Planning Branch of the Highways Division of the Department of Transportation. The benefit of the SRTS Strategic Plan is that it will provide a stable source of funding through the committee distribution mechanism; establish a streamlined approach to apply for and receive funding; identify socially equitable and inclusive planning, funding and implementing processes; and recommend the prioritization of safe routes to school programming. While the creation of the SRTS coordinator, committee and strategic plan is very important, also important and tied to its success, will be to establish a baseline and goals in order to proactively measure the performance and progress toward reaching those goals. The goals to be established by the SRTS Strategic Plan must also be informed by the leaders of our communities representing health, equity and climate interests.

Moving people around with safer and sustainable transportation options that integrate walking, bicycling, rolling, transit, and wheelchair use while connecting routes to all of a region's geographic areas can also improve community development, foster economic revitalization, link people to the health care system, schools, and jobs, improve air quality and help address climate change. Establishing the safe routes to school advisory committee, coordinator position and an implementable strategic plan is a good first step in achieving this.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **SUPPORT** of HB 600 HD 1.

Sincerely,

Pam Eaton

Pamela Eaton
Executive Director, Maui MPO
On behalf of the Maui MPO Policy Board



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION & CULTURE & THE ARTS
Thursday, March 16, 2023 — 3:00 p.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports HB 600 HD1, Relating to Safe Routes to School.

Dear Chair Lee and Members of the Committee:

My name is Micah Munekata, and I am the Director of Government Affairs at Ulupono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-focused impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life throughout the islands by helping our communities become more resilient and self-sufficient through locally produced food, renewable energy and clean transportation choices, and better management of freshwater resources.

Ulupono supports HB 600 HD1, which establishes the safe routes to school advisory committee within the Planning Branch of the Highways Division of the Department of Transportation.

Although current transportation planning and decision-making have provided important safe routes to school (SRTS) projects and have added facilities through Complete Streets approaches, many schools remain less accessible for keiki walking or rolling to school. The lack of complete, safe and comfortable bike and pedestrian networks puts keiki at risk. An [analysis of Hawai'i EMS calls](#) found that pedestrian and bicycling injuries to children are most likely to occur during the hours they are traveling to and from school.¹ Overall, walking and biking in Hawai'i have gotten progressively more dangerous in the last 20 years, and we are now ranked the 12th most dangerous state to walk and bike.²

Other states have made firm commitments to protect children's school trips. For example, Colorado dedicates more than \$2.5 million per year in both infrastructure and programmatic monies. These projects range from new sidewalks, lighting and trails, to softer solutions like walking school buses, maps and trip trackers to encourage healthier active living. The more we can support affordable options for keiki to get to school and protect them when they are walking and rolling, the better off our communities will be.

One recommendation we would like to see in this bill is a mechanism to release the \$1.5 million (and growing) that is currently in the safe routes special fund to the counties as outlined in HRS § 291-16. Our understanding is that, per statute, these funds should be going to the counties and historically has helped fund SRTS programs at the county level.

¹ <https://www.hiphi.org/srts2022/>

² <https://smartgrowthamerica.org/dangerous-by-design/>



However, to our knowledge, the funds have not been distributed since the passage of Act 9, Special Session 2021, despite the submission of reports by the counties . We are hopeful that this issue can be addressed.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs



1200 Ala Kapuna Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Tel: (808) 833-2711 ♦ Fax: (808) 839-7106 ♦ Web: www.hsta.org

Osa Tui, Jr.
President

Logan Okita
Vice President

Lisa Morrison
Secretary-Treasurer

Ann Mahi
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS

RE: HB 600 HD1 - RELATING TO SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2023

OSA TUI, JR., PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Lee and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports HB 600 HD1**, relating to Safe Routes to School. This bill establishes the safe routes to school advisory committee within the planning branch of the highways division of the department of transportation. Appropriates moneys.

Safe Routes to School facilitates walking and biking to school which helps keep students active while at the same time decreasing rush hour traffic. According to the U.S. Department of Transportation 10-14% of morning rush traffic is school-travel traffic. Thus, an SRTS program can reduce morning traffic and corresponding carbon emissions. Furthermore, providing students with a safe route to bike and/or walk to school promotes their health and safety which is especially crucial in rural and low socioeconomic communities due to higher risk of pedestrian and bicycling injuries. Because there are several rural and low socioeconomic communities in our state, this bill would allow our schools need to be heard and this advisory committee would be extremely helpful as a plan is further rolled out for Safe Routes to School in our neighborhoods where our students walk to school.

To promote the health and safety of students as they commute to school, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.



HIPHI Board

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Chair
University of Hawai'i at Hilo

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Secretary
John A. Burns School of Medicine,
Native Hawaiian Research Office

Debbie Erskine
Treasurer
ARCH-MEPS Consulting LLC, Owner

Keshia Adolpho, LCSW
Na'au Healing Center

Camonia Graham - Tutt, PhD
University of Hawai'i - West O'ahu

Carissa Holley, MEd
Hale Makua Health Services

Dina Shek, JD
Medical-Legal Partnership
For Children in Hawai'i

Garret Sugai
HMSA

Kathleen Roche, MS, RN, CENP
Kaiser Permanente

May Okihiro, MD, MS
John A. Burns School of Medicine,
Department of Pediatrics

Titiimaea Ta'ase, JD
State of Hawai'i, Deputy Public
Defender

HIPHI Initiatives

Coalition for a
Tobacco-Free Hawai'i

Community Health
Worker Initiative

COVID-19 Response

Hawai'i Drug & Alcohol Free
Coalitions

Hawai'i Farm to School Hui

Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition

Hawai'i Public Health Training Hui

Healthy Eating + Active Living

Kūpuna Collective

Date: March 13, 2023

To: Senator Chris Lee, Chair
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Transportation and Culture & the
Arts

Re: Support for HB 600 HD1, Relating to Safe Routes to School

Hrg: Thursday, March 16, 2023, at 3:00 PM

The Obesity Prevention Task Force (OPTF), a program of Hawai'i Public Health Instituteⁱ (HIPHI), is in **support of HB 600 HD1**, which establishes a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Advisory Board and funds a full-time SRTS coordinator position within the Hawai'i Department of Transportation (HDOT).

The lack of safe routes to school puts keiki at risk.

Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI) appreciates the opportunity to provide SUPPORT for **HB 600 HD1**. This measure establishes a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) advisory committee to coordinate with the State Department of Transportation and other invested stakeholders to create a comprehensive, statewide SRTS strategic plan. **HB 600 HD1** also provides for a statewide SRTS Coordinator, a position dedicated to facilitating the SRTS strategic plan and building interdepartmental bridges.

A strategic, outcome-based approach to SRTS is necessary to take full advantage of state funds and federal funding coming to Hawai'i through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). This opportunity is a historic way to invest in creating safe, accessible, and inclusive active transportation options for our keiki and future generations. To support inclusivity, a representative who is familiar with the challenges of the most vulnerable populations in schools could be added to the advisory committee.

The State of Hawai'i has aggressive climate, health, and equity goals. **HB 600 HD1** is one policy that will help Hawai'i:

1. Support safe places for all keiki to walk, bike, and roll to school;
2. Reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2045 (State Climate Commission Goal);

3. Increase the total miles of low-stress pedestrian infrastructure by 50 miles (Department of Health); and
4. Eliminate disparate outcomes by race and ethnicity across all sectors.
This measure is important because it dedicates a committee, a program coordinator, a strategic plan, and frees up funding to build safe, accessible, and inclusive places for keiki to walk and roll. **HB 600 HD1** will positively impact our communities and future generations.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peggy Mierzwa". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Peggy Mierzwa
Advocacy & Policy Director
Hawai'i Public Health Institute



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts
Thursday, March 16, 2023; 3:00 p.m.
State Capitol; Conference Room 224
Via Videoconference**

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 0600, HOUSE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL.

Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee:

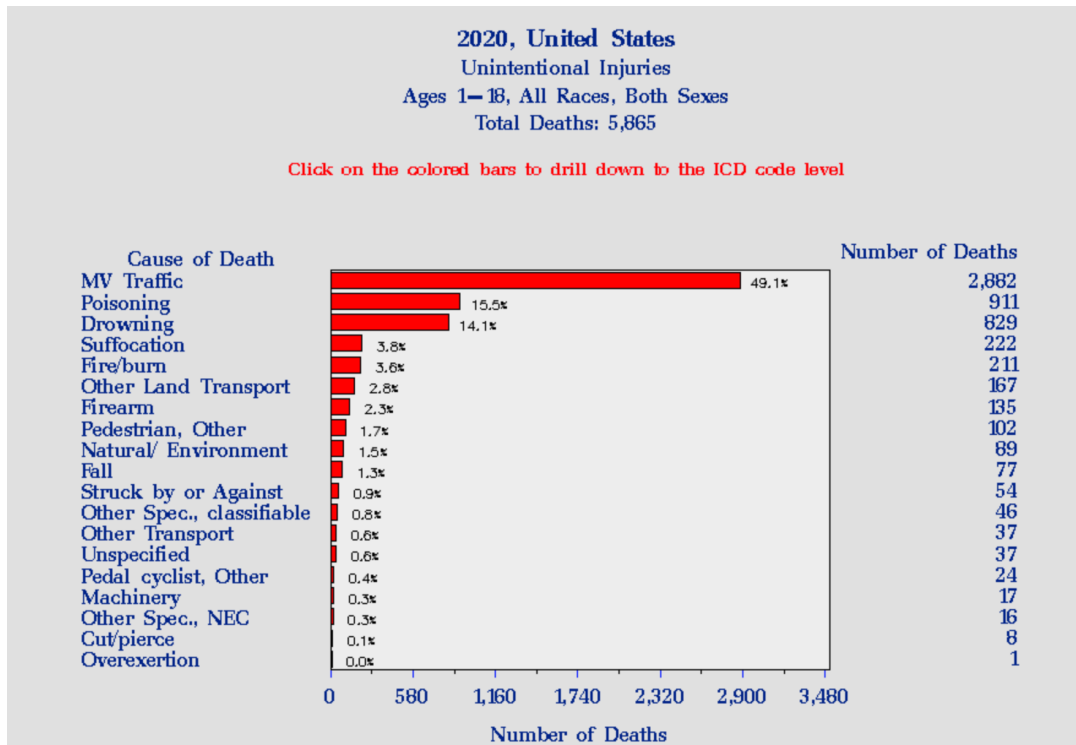
The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** House Bill No. 0600, House Draft 1 RELATING TO SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii's Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines to over 150,000 patients each year who live in rural and underserved communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of healthcare.

This measure, as received by your Committee, would:

- (1) Establish the safe routes to school advisory committee to develop a comprehensive statewide safe routes to school plan to develop strategies that would allow each child in the State to safely bike, walk, roll, or bus to school;
- (2) Appropriate an unspecified amount of general funds for fiscal years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025, to hire one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) safe routes to school program coordinator position, procure necessary facilities and equipment, and match federal funds related to sidewalks; and
- (3) Take effect on July 1, 3000.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the leading cause of death for persons aged 1 to 18 in the United States in 2020 was unintentional injury, of which by more than 30% differential, motor vehicle traffic accidents was the leading cause.



(See, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, <https://wisqars.cdc.gov/fatal-leading>.)

Among adolescents aged 15-19 years in Hawaii, unintentional injury is the leading cause of death, accounting for more than 40% of all deaths in this age group. The majority of these are motor vehicle-related, followed by accidental drowning and poisoning. (See, Hawaii Health Matters, <https://www.hawaiihealthmatters.org/indicators/index/view?indicatorId=2420&localeId=14>.)

Because of this, it is essential that the State identify ways of reducing the occurrence of traffic accidents and ensure that Hawaii's keiki are able to go to and from school safely at all times. **As such, the HPCA urges your favorable consideration of this bill.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Affairs and Policy Director Erik K. Abe at 536-8442, or eabe@hawaiiPCA.net.

HB-600-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 10:02:30 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/16/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Megan Fox	Testifying for Malama Kaua'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Keeping our most vulnerable community members safe and healthy by encouraging physical activity is a great investment of resources with clear returns on investment.

HB-600-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 12:57:47 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/16/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joseph Kohn MD	Testifying for We Are One, Inc. - www.WeAreOne.cc - WAO	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support HB600 HD1. And please support safe access at the new "round-about" at the new Kihei high school.

www.WeAreOne.cc



ALOHACARE

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

From: Paula Arcena, External Affairs Vice President
Mike Nguyen, Public Policy Manager

Hearing: Thursday, March 16, 2023 3:00 PM

RE: **HB600, HD1 Relating to Safe Routes to School- Support**

AlohaCare appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of HB600, HD1**. This measure establishes the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) advisory committee to coordinate with the Department of Transportation and other invested stakeholders to make recommendations to the State on strategies to ensure every child is able to walk, bike, roll or bus safely to school. This measure also appropriates funds to hire additional staff including a dedicated, full-time safe routes to school program coordinator.

Founded in 1994 by Hawai`i's community health centers, AlohaCare is a community-rooted, non-profit health plan serving over 80,000 Medicaid and dual-eligible health plan members on all islands. Approximately half of our membership are keiki. We are Hawai`i's only health plan exclusively dedicated to serving Medicaid beneficiaries. Our mission is to serve individuals and communities in the true spirit of aloha by ensuring and advocating for access to quality health care for all. We believe that health is about supporting whole-person care.

Creating an advisory committee will bring together stakeholders from a broad range of sectors, they will bring a variety of experiences to develop a strategic plan that prioritizes our most vulnerable children, recommend strategies for schools and communities to more easily access funding, and help to stabilize SRTS funding in the state.

Our keiki have the right to get to school safely. They should be encouraged to walk, bike, roll and bus to increase physical movement and decrease auto use. Lack of physical movement leads to higher rates of obesity, heart disease, high blood pressure and diabetes. The infrastructure of where people live directly correlates to their health. Incomplete pedestrian routes create avoidable, unnecessary risk for our keiki. Lack of safe infrastructure and poor health are disproportionately found in areas with the highest rates of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged residents. In addition to improving public health, this measure creates a path to more clearly address the state's transportation costs, greenhouse emissions, and decrease injuries and fatalities.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in **support of HB600, HD1**.

1357 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 1250, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
Call: 973-0712 • Toll-free: 1-877-973-0712 • Fax: 808-973-0726 • www.AlohaCare.org



Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks! is a nonpartisan 501c4 nonprofit committed to advocating for children and their families. Our core issues are safety, health, and education.

To: Senator Lee, Chair
Senator Inouye, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts

Re: HB600 HD1, relating to safe routes to school
10:00 a.m., Mar. 16, 2023

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye and committee members:

On behalf of Hawai'i Children's Action Network (HCAN) Speaks!, mahalo for the opportunity to **testify in SUPPORT and provide comments on House Bill 600 HD1, relating to safe routes to schools.**

Too many communities in Hawai'i do not have adequate transportation infrastructure that works for our most vital users: keiki. Children using active transportation options—whether by choice or necessity—have to walk, ride or roll on unsafe, high-traffic roads. The result is that children and families often feel like they have no safe place on our roads, sidewalks or other transportation infrastructure.

Some questions have been raised in previous committees and on similar bills about how many families actually need or want infrastructure for children to walk, ride or roll to school. When children and families don't feel safe getting to school any way other than by car, they will choose the car—even if it comes at significant costs. We cannot judge need by families' desire for this infrastructure because **many families have never had the opportunity to dream of another way.** HB600 is a first step toward a systematic building of choices.

We would encourage the inclusion of a member that can speak to how our youngest learners get to and from our public schools. Hundreds of 3- and 4-year-olds across the islands need to get to and from Department of Education (DOE) and charter school campuses to participate in Head Start, special education or EOEL Public Prekindergarten programs. There are also at least two Early Head Start programs on DOE campuses that care for and educate infants and toddlers. Nationally, Head Start families regularly note transportation as one of the biggest barriers to participation. Families with young children face transportation challenges that are unlike those with older children. This includes but is not limited to the need for different and more protective car seats and the need to travel with additional supplies (e.g. diapers, wipes, bottles), all of which may or may not be conducive to active and public transportation.

We respectfully ask the committee consider adding a representative for the education of young children birth to kindergarten or something similar as a mandatory member of the Safe Routes to School Advisory Committee.

Please support HB600 HD1 and consider inviting the voices of those who educate and care for young children on DOE and charter school campuses to the table.

Mahalo,

Ke'ōpū Reelitz
Director of Early Learning and Health Policy

HB-600-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 4:31:58 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/16/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaili Swan	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I strongly stand and support of this HB 600 because safety of the pedestrian is also a top priority for the students need to get the school from their home without getting in their harms way thank you for allowing me to testify.

CJ Johnson
chrisluttet@gmail.com

2/7/2023

Senator Lee and Senate Committee for Transportation, Culture and the Arts

Dear Chair Lee and Committee Members,

I am writing to offer strong support of House Bill 600 (HB600 with proposed amendments described below.

I serve as the lead organizer of the Hawaii Safe Routes Coalition. HSRC is an informal group of nonprofit, government, elected, and community representatives who are committed to working towards a Hawaii where all keiki have the infrastructure, confidence, skills and social support to bus, bike, walk or roll to school.

I submit this testimony as a survivor of traffic violence, a transportation safety expert, and as a lifelong advocate who has organized and spoken at far too many vigils for children, hung too many ghost bikes, comforted too many grieving parents and widows, and marched in many many memorial walks for many years.

The safest cities and countries for people walking, rolling and biking have a few key things in common. It's not exotic technology, or police states, or perfectly trained, perfectly compliant citizens.

The solutions are simpler than that. These places have decided that this is a problem worth committing resources and political will to solving. As long as we balance human life against traffic impact or parking spaces, as long as we accept that routine death sentences are a reasonable consequence of minor lapses in attention or judgment, as long as we reject inconvenient or disruptive solutions, history will continue to repeat.

In Hawaii, one third of traffic fatalities are people walking, rolling or bicycling, a share much higher than the national average and growing each year.

And what's more, the burdens and benefits of that tradeoff are not shared equitably. Older adults, unhoused people, people in low income communities are less protected, and more vulnerable.

U.S. road fatalities have risen by more than 10% over the past decade, even as they have fallen across much of the world. In the European Union, traffic deaths dropped by 36 percent between 2010 and 2020.

The Safe Routes Coalition and partners like Hawaii Public Health Institute, Ulupono Initiative, Get Fit Kauai, The American Heart Association, Hawaii Bicycling League and

others have worked closely with leaders in the legislature to develop HB600 to strengthen and modernize the state's commitment to its duty to our youth and our future.

We can't solve large complex problems until we acknowledge their roots, set a table that includes and empowers those most disparately affected by them, and empower communities to create solutions that reflect their experiences, culture and vision for a healthier, more inclusive future.

HB600 is an important step towards repairing past harm and building that vision.

As the committee considers HB600, I would also like to propose the following amendments, which are aligned with the intent of this legislation. Specifically

- Contents of the "plan" described in 291c (b) should include (as described in preamble) "creates performance measures, goals, strategies, and accountability;" for improving safety, active mode share, community investment in supportive programming, and infrastructure quality
- HRS291c-3(b) remove "federal," coordinator should not be limited to narrowly defined federal SRTS program
- HRS 291c-1(e) Replace "shall take into consideration the need to" with "shall give priority to proposals that"
- HRS 291c-3(g): Remove references to SAFETEALU, which is a long obsolete funding source for Safe Routes to School.
-

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

CJ Johnson

Honolulu

HB-600-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 6:56:53 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/16/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anthony Chang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

Hawaii should learn from the recent tragedy of a teenager who died after being struck by a vehicle on Kapiolani Boulevard (“[Officials reveal plans to improve traffic, pedestrian safety](#),” Star-Advertiser, Feb. 23). The Legislature should expand funding for the Safe Routes to School program.

Traffic fatalities are a leading cause of death for children ages 18 and younger in Hawaii. Safety needs to become a greater priority for road laws and design.

As keiki growing up on Oahu without a car, my sister and I had the privilege of walking to school with my mom or kupuna, my grandparents. My family benefited from the exercise. We enjoyed countless conversations together, with me and my sister learning from the wisdom of my grandparents or simply enjoying each other’s presence.

The commute was slower, yes, but it meant more quality time as ohana. If it rained, we had umbrellas and jackets ready. As a child it helped me expend excess energy and focus at school, along with making the chubby local boy I was less chubby.

From the pandemic we have learned people like having open and safe places to walk and bicycle.

For those who think that the Safe Routes to School program does not matter to them, as they may not have young children, or drive their families around, or do not travel during rush hour: Safer streets benefit everyone.

Years ago, I worked for a state legislator, who received complaints about children being hit by cars near McKinley High School. In his very limited capacity — not being the chair of a transportation committee or money committee — he would write letters to the director of city transportation services asking for a signalized crosswalk. The standard reply would be that a traffic study showed that a signalized crosswalk would negatively impact traffic.

I didn’t think much about these events until it finally caught up to my family. My 24-year-old sister, Emelia Hung, while not a child but still very young, died trying to cross Kapiolani Boulevard near McKinley High School in 2013. In recent years, after Emelia’s passing, a signalized crosswalk was added on King Street, mid-block, by McKinley High School.

As the most recent tragedy shows, this work is largely left undone. More signalized crosswalks need to be added on Kapiolani Boulevard on the opposite side by McKinley High School. In that area, trees need to be trimmed regularly so they don't block out street lights at night; alternatively, lights need to be brighter to shine through the trees while not blinding drivers.

If I could imagine the impact that these simple changes on infrastructure and policy would have had on everyone, I would have advocated for them sooner. In the long run, the mindset on transportation needs to change. I would be horrified if any of the children of my cousins or friends died walking or bicycling, or as passengers in cars. Most people have children in their lives, their own or their family members and friends' children. Making it safer and more comfortable to walk and bike to school would encourage more to do so, meaning fewer cars on the road, making it safer for everyone.

State lawmakers need to expand funding for the Safe Routes to School program. Recent tragedies have shown these changes are long overdue. A society should focus on protecting its most vulnerable.

Mahalo

Anthony Chang

HB-600-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 10:23:16 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/16/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julie Reyes Oda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a public school teacher and public school mom writing to support HB600. As the Hawai'i DOT's website states, Safe Routes to Schools supports "projects and activities that will improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution in the vicinity of schools." Improving traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution around our school campuses are good, but make sure to include a few things:

First, please ensure that there is oversight, and develop a statewide committee to create a plan with clear goals. Second, to execute that plan, hire a statewide coordinator to support projects and programming. Last, Hawai'i needs to get all of the federal funds that we are entitled to through the Fed Dept of Transportation that is marked for Safe Route to Schools efforts.

Thank you so much for hearing this bill!

HB-600-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 8:03:33 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/16/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Tipton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge for the passing of HB600. Keiki and their parents should have safe ways to walk, bike, or bus to school without fear of a car killing them. We should not force everyone to ride a car as this makes us unhealthy, pollutes the planet, and causes more traffic - ever drive by Punahou in the morning?

HB-600-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 9:35:44 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/16/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cards Pintor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I go to Farrington High School and I have to walk to school every day. As we have seen with accident after accident, this bill needs to be established so more students can live a safer life. I have witnessed a few times where students were almost hit by cars, me being one of them, and multiple times of cars nearly colliding with each other. Introducing an advisory committee will help prevent more lives from being taken away or injuries for students to reach their intended destination, which is the school is somewhere they have to go to every day.

Mahalo nui,
Cards Pintor

HB-600-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 12:21:14 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/16/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deb Marois	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a resident of Upcountry Maui and a consultant in the community development/public health sector, I am writing to urge you to pass HB600. Prioritizing road safety for keiki and kupuna benefits everyone. Road safety issues here range from a lack of bike lanes and sidewalks to a brand-new high school being built next to a busy highway without safe pedestrian crossing, which has resulted in the long-term delay of the school opening. Safe Routes for People puts focus on development that supports health and safety, as well as helping address climate change. A strategic plan and funding for coordination will enable the state to make clear progress as well as position Hawaii to leverage federal dollars.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Deb Marois, Makawao

HB-600-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 4:22:32 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/16/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Azelski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support of HD1. Thank you.

HB-600-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 12:46:37 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/16/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shay Chan Hodges	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

- All road users are entitled to being safe.
- Traffic-related deaths have increased over the past decade. In 2014 there were 95 deaths, while 2022 saw 117 deaths (DOH).
- When we prioritize road safety from keiki to kūpuna, everyone benefits.
- Impactful and funded safe routes strategies are necessary to improve road safety in Hawai‘i.
- This bill calls for a variety of strategies to be put in place such as protected walkways, better signage, safety devices, and protected bikeways, and it calls for sufficient funding of those projects.
- Improving safety for people to ride, walk or roll increases the opportunities for everyone to safely increase physical activity, which in turn positively impacts health and helps to address the root causes of many chronic diseases.
- While state level data is limited, the proportion of [students across the U.S. in grades K–8 who walk or bike to school fell from 48% in 1969 to only 13% in 2009](#).
- When states prioritize road safety through systemic programming, there is increased walking and biking to and from school.
 - The percentage of students who walked to and from school increased from 7-8 percent to 15-16 percent.
 - The percentage of students who biked to and from school increased from one percent to two percent.
- A [2014 evaluation of state-level safe routes projects](#) found that they were associated with significant increases in active school travel (from 12.9 percent to 17.6 percent), walking (from 9.8 percent to 14.2 percent), and bicycling (from 2.5 percent to 3.0 percent).
- [Safe streets efforts can be even more important for subpopulations](#) such as children with a disability or those that live in low-income neighborhoods.

--Shay Chan Hodges

Maui, Hawaii

HB-600-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 11:44:45 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/16/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicholas Manago	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Nicholas Manago, I am Zachary Manago's brother. Zach was killed in a hit and run by a drunk driver while riding his bicycle with his friends. He was passionate about cycling and even wrote an essay about why Hawaii should have more bike lanes. He also included how he never felt safe while cycling. Since my brother is not hear to voice his opinion, please join in on supporting HB600 HD1 to help make safer routes for our keiki.

Thank you,

Nick

HB-600-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 9:34:07 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/16/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justin Menina	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Justin Menina and I am writing in SUPPORT of HB600. It is paramount that the State of Hawaii must do the following to develop safer roads to schools:

1. Develop a statewide committee that will be responsible for creating Safe Routes to School strategic plan with clear goals.
2. Create a position for a statewide coordinator who will be able to support local communities in delivering equity-focused Safe Routes to Schools projects and programming.
3. Ensure Hawaii will be able to take full advantage of all the money that comes through the Federal Department of Transportation for the Safe Routes to School efforts

me ke aloha ‘āina,

Justin Menina

HB-600-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 9:44:28 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/16/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daphne L. Manago	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB600 which would establish a safe routes to school advisory committee and appropriate moneys to hire a safe routes to school program coordinator.

As a mother, I would like to see more children being able to walk or ride their bikes to school, rather than being dropped off and picked up every morning/afternoon since this causes major congestion in the neighborhood. Parents will need some assurance that their children will be safe before this happens. Establishing an advisory committee with a program coordinator is a starting point. Let's come together and make our streets safer for our precious children.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-600-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 10:57:09 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/16/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
RoAnn Vioria	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good Afternoon Chair and Committee,

My name is RoAnn Vioria, I am the Maui Nui Healthy Eating + Active Living Coalition Coordinator.

I am in support of HB600.

I was born and raised on the south side of Maui, specifically in the Pi'ilani Village subdivision across from Kūlanihāko'i High School. There were so many talks about the Kihei High School being built between 2010-2015. I honestly thought I was going to be in the first graduating class of Kihei High School. However, it did not play out like that. In 2023, Kūlanihāko'i High School is complete and ready to open for students. Just one HUGE issue that stops this beautiful high school from opening, which is the Safe Access Route for keiki to even get to school. As of right now, there is a roundabout placed on what used to be a highway and one crosswalk with little to no signage of pedestrians. This roundabout and school opening has been a huge political issue here on the island of Maui. The question is: Why was this (Safe Route Access/Safer Sidewalks) not accounted for? Imagine if this bill was adopted before the school and roundabout were built, the many headaches and wasted taxpayer money would be non-existent. This roundabout and school issue has many residents untrusting our government agencies such as the DOT and DOE. Thus, in order to mend the reputation change needs to happen. HB600 is the remediation activity that needs to be adopted.

I support HB600 because it supports policies, procedures, and partnerships to create safe access routes to schools. In order to solve this multi-faceted issue, key players and stakeholders need to be at the table to consult, recommend, and regulate.

Thank you,

RoAnn Vioria, MPH

HB-600-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 12:58:35 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/16/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natasha Woodward	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I work in a local middle school and I have noticed that there is only one out of about 600 kids who ride their bike to school. I think the biggest reason is probably the lack of bike lanes and safety in the local area. Riding bikes would greatly help with the insane traffic conjection in the mornings, and it would give the kids much needed exercise. Please support this bill so we can come up with a way to have safer communities!

Mahalo

Natasha