Testimony of GLENN M. OKIMOTO DIRECTOR

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IN REPLY REFER TO: (808) 586-2165

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

February 20, 2013 3:30 p.m. State Capitol, Conference Room 309

H.B. 591, H.D. 1 RELATING TO SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

House Committee on Finance

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** HB 591, HD 1, to streamline the process of not having to amend Act 317 every fiscal year. The DOT has a line item appropriation in our proposed biennium budget request for the Safe Routes to School Program.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.





PATH ~ PEOPLES ADVOCACY FOR TRAILS HAWAI'I

Board of Directors Jeff McDevitt, MD Todd Holdcroft Janet Higa Miller Monica Scheel MD Michael J. Riehm, AIA Robert Ward Laura Dierenfield

> Operations Director Cindy Conway

Programs, Events, and Development Director John Simmerman

Mission To safely connect the people and places on Hawai`i Island with pathways and bikeways.

Serving the Island of Hawai`i since 1986

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Committee on Finance

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair

RELATING TO SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL Wednesday, February 20, 2013 Conference Room 308, 3:30 p.m.

Aloha Chairperson Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair Johanson and members of the Committee:

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 591 HD1 Relating to Safe Routes to School.

We are writing in advance of the Finance Committee hearing tomorrow to urge your support of delegation of Safe Routes to School funds, when appropriated, to the respective counties for the purposes of the act.

The Safe Routes to School Act fosters safe zones of passage of children to and From school on bike and on foot. Funding made available to each county will help insure that school aged children throughout the state get regular, daily physical activity, increase their readiness to learn upon arriving at school, provide additional opportunities to socialize outside of the classroom, and instill a sense of independence.

Programs like Safe Routes to School encourage safe walking and biking to school also improve traffic congestion during the morning and afternoon hours, and improve environmental air and noise quality by getting more cars off the road, and fewer waiting in traffic.

PATH has been involved in Safe Routes to School programming since 1999, leading many first-in-state programs to help kids walk and bike to school. We view the Safe Routes to School program, and this supporting legislation to create safety zones around schools, as a critical set of tools to improve the health of our kids, reduce obesity and create a healthier Hawaii.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

"attier

Tina Clothier Executive Director Peoples Advocacy for Trails Hawaii

HB591 Submitted on: 2/17/2013 Testimony for FIN on Feb 20, 2013 15:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Troy Abraham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, 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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