

HCR182 / HR120

Testimony

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO CONDUCT A TRAFFIC STUDY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO ALLEVIATE TRAFFIC CONGESTION ON KAHEKILI HIGHWAY FROM THE LIKELIKE HIGHWAY INTERSECTION TO KAMEHAMEHA HIGHWAY.

1 WHEREAS, residents of the windward side of Oahu stretching
2 from Kane'ohē to Kahalu'u and even to La'ie have complained for
3 years about the rush-hour traffic congestion on Kahekili
4 Highway; and

5

6 WHEREAS, the traffic congestion poses a risk for increased
7 accidents, degrades the citizens' quality of life, and causes
8 motorists to lose valuable time in their commute to and from
9 work; and

10

11 WHEREAS, afternoon traffic congestion on the windward side
12 of Oahu is further exacerbated by traffic from the Haiku Road
13 intersection to Kamehameha Highway due to the merging of three
14 lanes to a single lane for north-bound traffic; and

15

16 WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation has jurisdiction
17 over State highways such as Kahekili Highway; and

18

19 WHEREAS, the rush-hour traffic congestion problem needs to
20 be remedied to shorten commute times, allow residents a better
21 quality of life, and address community safety concerns; now,
22 therefore,

23

24 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
25 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
26 Session of 2015, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
27 Transportation is requested to conduct a traffic study and make
28 recommendations to alleviate traffic congestion on Kahekili
29 Highway; and



H.C.R. NO. 182

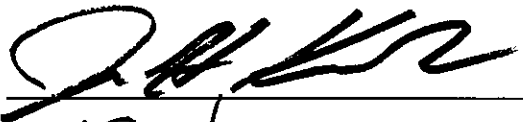
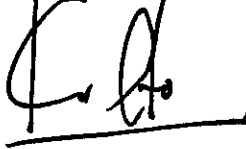

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the traffic study identify the
 2 causes of the traffic congestion and solutions to ease the
 3 traffic congestion, including the widening of Kahekili Highway,
 4 providing public transportation express routes for University of
 5 Hawai'i students from Windward Community College to University of
 6 Hawai'i at Mānoa, and deploying contraflow lanes, among other
 7 appropriate solutions; and

8
 9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
 10 Transportation is requested to schedule and hold community
 11 informational briefings during the course of the study; and

12
 13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
 14 Transportation is requested to submit a report of its findings
 15 and recommendations, including any proposed legislation and any
 16 actions taken, to the Legislature no later than twenty days
 17 before the convening of the Regular Session of 2016; and

18
 19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 20 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of
 21 Transportation and the Director of the Department of
 22 Transportation Services of the City and County of Honolulu.

23
 24
 25

OFFERED BY: 



MAR 13 2015



HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO CONDUCT A TRAFFIC STUDY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO ALLEVIATE TRAFFIC CONGESTION ON KAHEKILI HIGHWAY FROM THE LIKELIKE HIGHWAY INTERSECTION TO KAMEHAMEHA HIGHWAY.

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2 from Kane'ohe to Kahalu'u and even to La'ie have complained for
3 years about the rush-hour traffic congestion on Kahekili
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6 WHEREAS, the traffic congestion poses a risk for increased
7 accidents, degrades the citizens' quality of life, and causes
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12 of Oahu is further exacerbated by traffic from the Haiku Road
13 intersection to Kamehameha Highway due to the merging of three
14 lanes to a single lane for north-bound traffic; and

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17 over State highways such as Kahekili Highway; and

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19 WHEREAS, the rush-hour traffic congestion problem needs to
20 be remedied to shorten commute times, allow residents a better
21 quality of life, and address community safety concerns; now,
22 therefore,

23
24 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
25 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
26 Session of 2015, that the Department of Transportation is
27 requested to conduct a traffic study and make recommendations to
28 alleviate traffic congestion on Kahekili Highway; and

29
30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the traffic study identify the
31 causes of the traffic congestion and solutions to ease the



1 traffic congestion, including the widening of Kahekili Highway,
 2 providing public transportation express routes for University of
 3 Hawai'i students from Windward Community College to University of
 4 Hawai'i at Mānoa, and deploying contraflow lanes, among other
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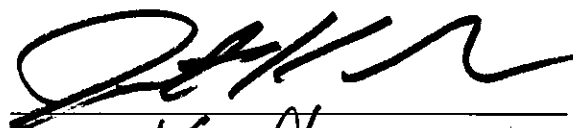
6
 7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
 8 Transportation is requested to schedule and hold community
 9 informational briefings during the course of the study; and

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 12 Transportation is requested to submit a report of its findings
 13 and recommendations, including any proposed legislation and any
 14 actions taken, to the Legislature no later than twenty days
 15 before the convening of the Regular Session of 2016; and

16
 17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 18 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Transportation and
 19 the Director of the Department of Transportation Services of the
 20 City and County of Honolulu.

21
 22
 23

OFFERED BY:



K. H.

Felicia Ponder

MAR 13 2015





LATE

Testimony of
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 25, 2015
10:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 309

H.C.R. 182 / H.R. 120
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO CONDUCT A
TRAFFIC STUDY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO ALLEVIATE TRAFFIC
CONGESTION ON KAHEKILI HIGHWAY FROM THE LIKELIKE HIGHWAY
INTERSECTION TO KAMEHAMEHA HIGHWAY

House Committee on Transportation

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports the intent** of these resolutions. However, we feel these resolutions are unnecessary.

This resolution proposes that the DOT conduct a traffic study to identify the causes of traffic congestion and propose solutions to ease traffic congestion along Kahekili Highway between Haiku Road and Kamehameha Highway.

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Kahekili Highway was done in 1990. Following completion of the EIS, the DOT widened Kahekili Highway from Likelike Highway to Haiku Road. In 2014, the DOT then completed a re-evaluation of the 1990 EIS for the segment of Kahekili Highway from Haiku Road to Kamehameha Highway. Based on this re-evaluation, the DOT is moving forward with the environmental process for this segment. Public involvement opportunities will be included in the process.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



KO`OLAUPOKO HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUB

March 24, 2015

To: Rep. Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair
Rep. Matthew S. LoPresti, Vice Chair
& Members
Committee on Transportation

From: Alice P. Hewett, President
Ko`olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club

Subject: Comments on H.C.R. 182 – Traffic Study on Kahekili Highway

Aloha Chair Aquino, Vice Chair LoPresti and Members of the Committee:

The Ko`olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club wishes to offer comments and concerns regarding House Concurrent Resolution 182, concerning a request for a traffic study and recommended solutions for congestion on Kahekili Highway in Windward O`ahu.

Our civic club is one of the largest Hawaiian civic clubs among almost 70 in Hawai`i and on the continental U.S. Among our membership are many residents who live north of Ha`iku Road, in communities from He`eia and beyond, up the Windward coast.

So of course we are concerned about traffic congestion on Kahekili Highway.

For those of you who may not know, traffic flowed relatively smoothly until the subdivisions in Ahuimanu were developed. The hundreds of homes there, and resultant large numbers of vehicles, added to the congestion.

But it was not until the installation of traffic signals at Kahekili Highway on both ends of Hui Iwa Street did the problems become exacerbated. Allowing for residents to turn left onto or from side streets of those subdivisions drew a call for the signals, which resulted in backup of traffic in both directions during morning and afternoon rush hours.

It is curious to us why DOT or DTS allowed both of those subdivisions, with the anticipated additional traffic load – and subsequent need to enter Kahekili Highway from both sides – without doing a proper carrying capacity study. This would have indicated to them at the time that allowing the subdivision developments would have an adverse impact on Kahekili Highway.

This matter has already been studied by the State Department of Transportation, as recently as two years ago. They held community meetings to gather our mana`o. The DOT already knows that there are many commuters who are unhappy with the traffic slowdown in that stretch of Kahekili between Hygenic Store and Haiku Road.

While our civic club supports efforts to alleviate the congestion, we are strongly opposed to widening Kahekili Highway. The main reason is because we are concerned that widening it from Ha`iku Road to Kamehameha Highway (by Hygenic Store) will bring increased pressures to widen Kamehameha Highway up the coast. That, in turn, will bring increased pressures to allow development of valuable agricultural and conservation lands that must be protected for farming and watersheds to support future generations.

Objectively speaking, the traffic slowdown on Kahekili is relatively brief compared with the kinds of traffic congestion found on Leeward O`ahu. Our commuters may be delayed by a half-hour or so, while motorists on the West side of the island spend hours in traffic heading into and out of Honolulu.

Nevertheless, we appreciate the intent of this resolution and support any efforts to find reasonable solutions to alleviate the slowdowns on Kahekili Highway – so long as it does not include widening of the highway.

Mahalo for this opportunity to offer our mana`o.

The Ko`olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club was established in 1937 and is a not-for-profit community organization dedicated to preserving and perpetuating the history, heritage and culture of Native Hawaiians. Its membership is open to people of Hawaiian ancestry and those who are "Hawaiian at heart".

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
Wednesday, March 25, 2015 1030 Room 309

Please support HCR182-requesting Dept of Transportation to conduct traffic study to alleviate the congestion of Kahekili Highway. My name is Brad Davis, a 10 year resident of Kahalu'u-Kaneohe, and 22 year resident of Oahu. I am a commuter, traveling 30 miles roundtrip daily from Kaneohe to the Honolulu Airport area. When I was living on the town side prior to the late 1997 opening of the H-3, traffic commuting from windward side to town side was unbearable on the Likelike and Pali, with frequent breakdowns and traffic jams in the two tunnels. Fast forward to today where the H-3 has been operational for 17+ years – the addition of the H-3 has eliminated the choke points, and traffic is flowing through all three tunnels.

However, the Kahekili corridor between Haiku Rd and the Hygenic Store remains a choke point, and is only getting worse. I've attached a 2002 Oahu traffic study photo showing that the Kahekili corridor traffic issues mirror the Ewa to Town traffic issues. While Honolulu is making good efforts with the Light Rail system to reduce traffic on the leeward side, nothing is being done on the Windward side to fix this traffic issue. Two lane roads are very dangerous – just this weekend Kam Hwy in vicinity of Hygenic store was blocked off due to a motor vehicle accident with a telephone pole.

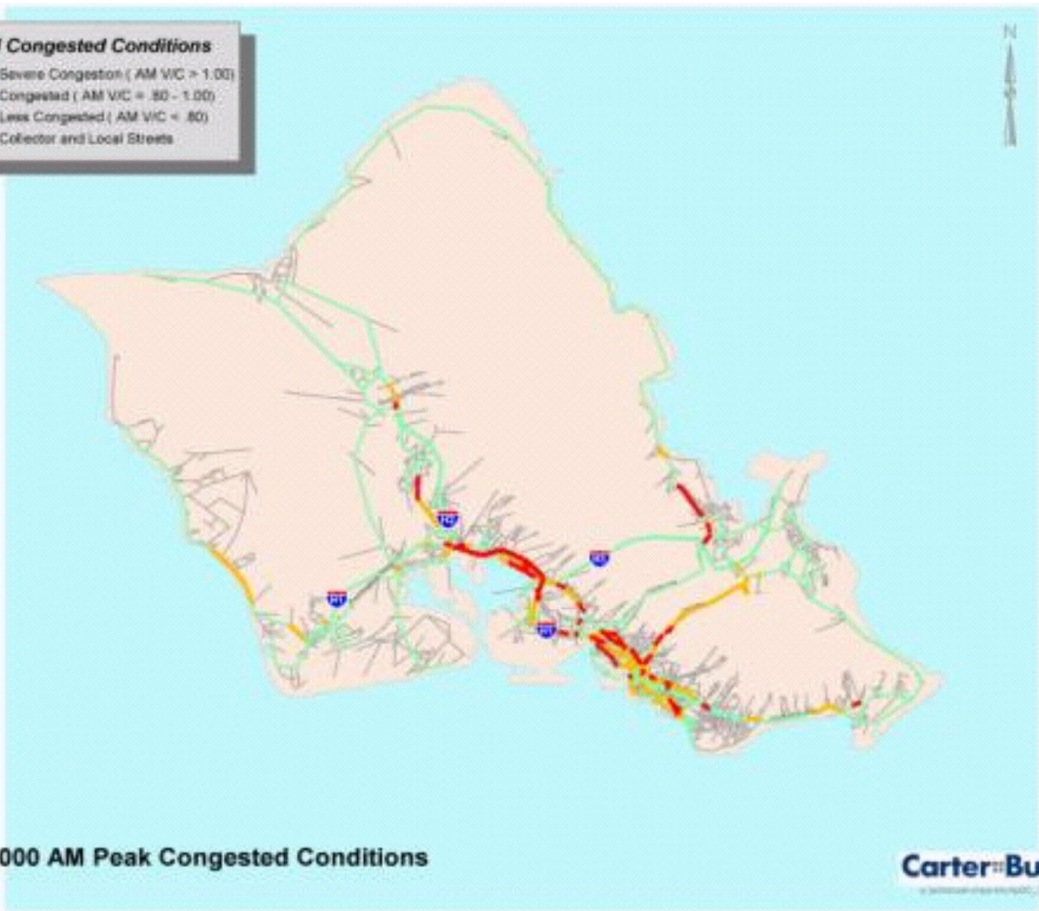
A dedicated traffic study for the Kahekili corridor with viable (and affordable) recommended solutions to improve traffic safety, reduce traffic jams, and improve resident quality of life is desperately needed. Resident input and feedback should be included as part of this traffic study. Most windward Oahu residents won't benefit from the Light Rail system, yet are paying for its installation. We need a solution to our traffic problems now, and garner island-wide support to implement the plan.

Sincerely,

Brad Davis
47-657 Kamehameha Hwy Kaneohe 23 Mar 2015

AM Congested Conditions

- Severe Congestion (AM VIC \geq 1.00)
- Congested (AM VIC = .80 - 1.00)
- Less Congested (AM VIC = .60)
- Collector and Local Streets



Year 2000 AM Peak Congested Conditions

My name is Jerry Boster and I live in Ahuimanu Knolls.

Every workday I travel eastbound on Kahekili Highway (SR88) at about 6:30 AM and westbound at about 5 PM. Due to the one-lane design, high volume of traffic and traffic lights, the stretch between Haiku Road and Hui Iwa Street is nearly always extremely slow.

Even during the work day when traffic is lighter, I rarely am able to attain the posted speed limit.

The weekends are even worse. The volume of traffic travelling to/from the North Shore routinely brings traffic speeds down to single digits.

The local Ahuimanu traffic would be aided by adding a second lane in each direction between Haiku Road and Kamehameha Highway. Given the width of the existing road shoulders, this could be accomplished fairly quickly and relatively inexpensively. This would allow the traffic travelling to/from the North Shore to flow in the #1 lane unimpeded by the local Ahuimanu traffic entering/exiting or transiting between local businesses.

March 24, 2015

Representative Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair
Representative Matthew S. LoPresti, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Transportation
Twenty-Eighth Legislature
Regular Session of 2015

RE: HCR 182/HR 120 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO CONDUCT A TRAFFIC STUDY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO ALLEVIATE TRAFFIC CONGESTION ON KAHEKILI HIGHWAY FROM THE LIKELIKE HIGHWAY INTERSECTION TO KAMEHAMEHA HIGHWAY

**Hearing date: Wednesday, March 25, 2015
10:30 am, Conference Room 309**

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

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony in **SUPPORT OF HCR 182/ HR 120**. I am a third generation resident of La`ie and travel to downtown Honolulu for work each weekday via Kahekili Highway. Like most of our neighbors in La`ie, my family and I are grateful to live on the windward side and have a strong sense of pride for our community. However, for those of us who travel to town for work, the commute has become almost intolerable. Over the past 10 years, rush hour traffic on the windward side has gotten considerably worse, especially in the corridor between Kahalu`u and Kaneohe. In fact, it sometimes takes as long as 40 minutes to drive from the Kamehameha Highway intersection on Kahekili Highway to the Haiku Road intersection, a distance of about 3.5 miles. In addition, there is also a significant amount of traffic all the way through to the Likelike Highway merge.

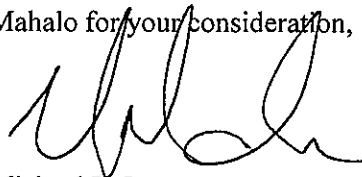
It appears to me that one of the primary reasons for the traffic congestion is because much of Kahekili Highway is only a single lane. Vehicles merging onto the highway from the side streets, such as Hui Iwa Street and Ahuimanu Place, slow down the flow of traffic because they must merge into single lane. It seems that increasing the number of lanes on Kahekili Highway to at least two lanes in each direction would reduce much of the traffic congestion in that area. However, this is merely my lay opinion. A proper traffic study by the Department of Transportation must be completed in order to determine what solutions should be implemented to alleviate some of the congestion.

Reducing traffic congestion on Kahekili Highway would not only improve the quality of life for those of us who commuting from the windward side, it would also improve the safety conditions on the highway. Many of the accidents on Kahekili Highway are caused when frustrated drivers pass slower moving vehicles in order to reduce their travel time.

Representative Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair
Representative Matthew S. LoPresti, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Transportation
March 24, 2015
Page Two

For these reasons, I recommend that the DOT conduct a traffic study and make recommendations on how to alleviate the traffic and support HCR 182/HR 120.

Mahalo for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael L. Iosua". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "L".

Michael L. Iosua

MLI:tmoh

Anthony Koyamatsu



47-677 Alawiki Street • Kaneohe, HI 96744 • Phone: 808-226-4311
E-Mail: tony.koyamatsu@heco.com

Date: March 23, 2015

House of Representatives

Subject: HCR 182

Dear Representatives:

I support this resolution for the safety of the communities of Ahuimanu and Temple Valley. The need for a traffic study and recommended solutions goes beyond improving the ride home or work.

The communities from Kahuku to Ahuimanu that commute daily to town and back have grown significantly over the past 20 years. The Kahikili Highway is the primary route taken to get to greater Honolulu. As a result, traffic in the morning backs-up for several miles from Heeia Street towards Kahaluu. Similarly, the afternoon traffic backs-up from Temple Valley to the Likelike Highway. Many drivers resort to driving through subdivisions to bypass the Kahikili traffic. This creates a safety issue as cars are speeding through neighborhoods with children walking or riding bikes to school, or seniors taking their morning walks.

Actions to remedy the severe traffic congestion is way over due. Please support this resolution so a study can be conducted and recommended solutions can be identified. Ultimately, actual countermeasures can be developed and implemented for the sake of many windward communities.

Sincerely,

Anthony Koyamatsu

Anthony Koyamatsu

Lynn Koyamatsu



47-677 Alawiki Street • Kaneohe, HI 96744 • Phone: 808-226-4311
E-Mail: tony.koyamatsu@heco.com

Date: March 23, 2015

House of Representatives

Subject: HCR 182

Dear Representatives:

I'm writing to support this resolution. My neighbors and I can attest to traffic conditions getting severely worse with each passing year. A traffic study with recommended solutions will be very much appreciated by the Ahuimanu community.

Besides being on the road for longer periods, the traffic has extenuating impacts. People are speeding to work and rushing to get home to pick-up their kids because additional time needed to get to destinations. Our family decided to transfer our youngest child to a school in town because we could not make it back to pick him up before the A+ afterschool care daily deadline. The morning traffic backs-up for several miles from Heeia Street towards Kahaluu, and the afternoon traffic backs-up from Temple Valley to the Likelike Highway.

Please support this resolution to conduct a traffic study and generate recommendations to improve the traffic situation.

Sincerely,

Lynn Koyamatsu

Lynn Koyamatsu

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 10:27 AM
To: TRNtestimony
Cc: ssiu003@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR182 on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM

HCR182

Submitted on: 3/24/2015

Testimony for TRN on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
susan starrett	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: My family and I have traveled Kahekili Hwy. daily from 1987 until the present. We have seen it go from a nice low traffic roadway without street lights to the present day gridlock. In 1987 there were no traffic lights at all and now there are four between Heeia Rd. and Kam Hwy. The northbound right turn lane into the first Hui Iwa St. is so short it does little or nothing to diminish the long line of traffic. Weekends are just plain ridiculous. I don't see what a study could do, however, something needs be done to lessen the amount of traffic on this roadway. There are many illegal cars out there and that may be a place to start. Anyone can get a safety check illegally. If these cars were impounded, as they do in some cities, maybe the roadways would open up again. Thank you for bringing this problem into awareness.

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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lopresti2 - George

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2015 2:31 PM
To: TRNtestimony
Cc: mrb@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR182 on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM

HCR182

Submitted on: 3/23/2015

Testimony for TRN on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
bertie bento	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: lived in Kahaluu for over 30 years traffic needs to be fixed

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lopresti2 - George

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2015 8:12 PM
To: TRNtestimony
Cc: acpoponi@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR182 on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM

HCR182

Submitted on: 3/23/2015

Testimony for TRN on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anthony Poponi	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha! I am writing in support of a study to determine possible traffic modifications to alleviate traffic along the route identified in this bill. This route is ill-suited for the capacity of vehicles coming from northern valleys (Kualoa, etc.) let alone the communities in Ahuimanu, Temple Valley, Kahaluu and Waihee. This has been an ongoing issue for years and as continued growth spreads out from Town the issue will only worsen. Please appropriate funding for this bill.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 11:04 AM
To: TRNtestimony
Cc: pwalker281@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR182 on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM

HCR182

Submitted on: 3/24/2015

Testimony for TRN on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patrice Walker	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I live in the Ahuimanu area of Kahalu'u, so Kahekili Highway is the way I get into Kaneohe and beyond and back home. I both drive and use The Bus. The only time Kahekili Highway is not clogged with traffic is weekdays during non-rush-hour times. Since it is a major route to the North Shore, traffic on weekends is as bad as and sometimes worse than rush hour on weekdays. I don't know how congestion is going to be alleviated (I've thought about it a lot) since the part of Kahekili between Haiku St and Kamehameha Highway is two lanes and there isn't that much room to widen the road. Congestion bogs down that stretch of Kahekili going to the North Shore because you have traffic coming off four lanes of highway after the Likelike to one lane of Kahekili. I thought the last major road construction on Kahekili was going to resolve this issue, but it only changed the intersections, presumably to make them safer. I've gotten used to these slow downs, but it would be great if a study could reveal some way to alleviate this congestion.

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lopresti2 - George

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
 Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 6:53 PM
 To: TRNtestimony
 Cc: ellism011@hawaii.rr.com
 Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR182 on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM
 Attachments: Testomony.pages

HCR182

Submitted on: 3/24/2015

Testimony for TRN on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Ellis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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