

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

**Testimony COMMENTING on S.B. 2834, S.D. 2  
RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION**

REPRESENTATIVE HENRY J.C. AQUINO, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Hearing Date: March 18, 2022

Room Number: 423 and  
Videoconference

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 Senate Bill 2834, Senate Draft 2  
4 (S.B. 2834, S.D. 2) which amends the duties and membership of the State Highway Safety  
5 Council (SHSC) and renames it the Transportation Safety and Modernization Council to help  
6 ensure that the DOT achieves their stated goals and outcomes, and improve reporting to provide  
7 better transparency for elected leaders and the public.

8 S.B. 2834, S.D. 2 is aligned with several of the DOH Healthy Hawaii Strategic Plan 2030  
9 physical activity objectives, to increase the miles of low stress bicycle and pedestrian  
10 infrastructure across the state, and for the state and each county to identify and adopt mode-share  
11 goals and measurements that prioritize walking, wheelchairs, and bicycling.

12 The DOH routinely participates in the SHSC to ensure that health metrics and health  
13 equity are included in transportation performance measures and will continue to do so if the  
14 proposed changes are adopted. The DOH looks forward to continued collaboration with the  
15 DOT.

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

17 **Offered Amendments:** None



Email: [communications@ulupono.com](mailto:communications@ulupono.com)

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
Friday, March 18, 2022 — 10:30 a.m.

**Ulupono Initiative supports SB 2834 SD 2, Relating to Transportation.**

Dear Chair Aquino 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; and better management of freshwater and waste.

**Ulupono supports SB 2834 SD 2**, which establishes the Transportation Safety and Modernization Council to help the Department of Transportation (DOT) achieve state goals and outcomes while improving reporting to provide better information and transparency for elected leaders and the public.

The transportation industry is facing many challenges. Transportation agencies have been faced with new calls to prioritize safety through vision zero commitments at the federal and state level, coupled with demands for accountability through performance metric reporting. Longer term funding considerations still remain including the long-term solvency of the federal highway trust fund. Added to this are climate concerns, cost-of-living pressures, public health crises, and mobility justice.

Hawai'i DOT is facing all of these issues and more. The Transportation Safety and Modernization Council can help provide a forum for such ongoing deliberation at a state level, taking into account the total impact and direction of our transportation program and ensuring that transportation investments are serving our community's goals effectively.

This Council is not to replace other decision-making bodies about our transportation investment program, but be a resource to help guide state level conversations on what is happening in transportation and ensure that collectively is serving our community needs.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata  
Director of Government Affairs

*Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i*



## HIPHI Board

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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 Food Security Coalition

Date: March 17, 2022

To: Rep. Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair  
Rep. Greggor Ilagan, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Transportation

Re: Support for SB 2834, SD2, Relating to Transportation

Hrg: March 18, 2022 at 10:30 AM via videoconference

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The Obesity Prevention Task Force, a program of Hawai'i Public Health Institute<sup>i</sup> (HIPHI), is in **support of SB 2834, SD2**, which renames the State Highway Safety Council to the Transportation Safety and Modernization Council and amends its duties to assist the Department of Transportation in achieving state goals and outcomes, and improve transparency and reporting.

Hawai'i must move away from an auto-centric society and invest in infrastructure that prioritizes public transportation, biking, and walking. Not only will this improve health by making active transportation more accessible, but it will also make our roads safer for all users, lower the cost of transportation and reduce greenhouse gas emissions<sup>ii</sup>. It also aligns with the recent legislation to modernize Hawaii's ground transportation infrastructure,<sup>iii</sup> and SB 2834 SD2 offers increased support to the Department of Transportation in its implementation of the new law.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amanda Fernandes".

Amanda Fernandes, JD  
Policy and Advocacy Director

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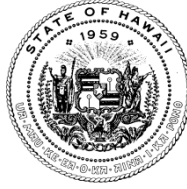
<sup>i</sup> Created by the legislature in 2012, the Obesity Prevention Task Force is comprised of over 60 statewide organizations, and works to make recommendations to reshape Hawai'i's school, work, community, and health care environments, making healthier lifestyles obtainable for all Hawai'i residents. The Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI) convenes the Task Force and supports and promotes policy efforts to create a healthy Hawai'i.

Hawai'i Public Health Institute is a hub for building healthy communities, providing issue-based advocacy, education, and technical assistance through partnerships with government, academia, foundations, business, and community-based organizations.

<sup>ii</sup> Atherton, E. & Osborne, B. (2016). Driving Public Health with Transportation. [Powerpoint Slides]

<sup>iii</sup> Act 131, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2021

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



**TESTIMONY BY:**

JADE T. BUTAY  
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors  
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EDUARDO P. MANGLALLAN  
PATRICK H. MCCAIN  
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

March 18, 2022  
10:30 A.M.  
State Capitol, Teleconference

**S.B. 2834, S.D. 2**  
**RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION**

House Committee on Transportation

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The Department of Transportation (DOT) provides **comments** on this measure that proposes to amend the duties and membership of the State Highway Safety Council and rename it to the Transportation Safety and Modernization Council.

The DOT considers the existing provisions in Section 286-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, already authorize the Governor the flexibility necessary to adjust the composition and focus of the council and DOT Highways will begin doing so immediately.

The DOT Highways Division already reports progress on established metrics and goal achievement, evaluates its projects, and engages with stakeholders representing all users of its highway facilities. Goals are set based on federal mandates, state requirements, and policies set by Governor and the Legislature.

Finally, the preamble highlights concerns about safety, specifically pedestrian safety, congestion, and transportation costs. Contrary to what is suggested by this language, the DOT has dedicated safety, bicycle and pedestrian, and congestion relief programs, and DOT provides transportation infrastructure to serve the surrounding land uses and provide mode options for users to choose from. The DOT recommends removing the Section 1 of the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

**SB-2834-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 2:02:13 PM

Testimony for TRN on 3/18/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chad K Taniguchi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill to transform the State Highway Safety Council into the Transportation Safety and Modernization Council. I have been a member of the State Highway Safety Council for 9 of the last 10 years. During that time the State Highway Safety Council has played a positive role in supporting and pushing the DOT to do more to improve safety.

The DOT under Ed Sniffen's leadership has done wonderful work to improve safety for all road users. Bike lanes and shoulders have increased. Leeward Bikeway is being built. Raised crosswalks slow drivers down and protect people walking. Red light safety cameras are being implemented. Roads are being redesigned with safety as a priority. Even more can be done.

Three years ago when Complete Streets and Vision Zero were adopted to guide the work of the DOT, the idea arose to give the State Highway Safety Council the function of pulling various agencies and stakeholders together to push for and support Vision Zero and Complete Streets goals as a cohesive unit. This bill provides direction for that to happen.

This model of coordinated, multi-agency cooperation striving toward safe and clean transportation goals is a best practice I have seen work in Washington and Oregon. Including motorist organizations such as the Hawaii Transportation Association is a good idea. We are all road users and the more we talk and recognize each other's needs to use the same spaces, the safer streets will become.