



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

April 13, 2022

11:00 A.M.

State Capitol, Capitol Room 423/Teleconference

S.C.R. 136, S.D. 1

REQUESTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION CREATE SAFE ROUTES FOR SENIORS LIVING IN HOUSING UNITS, RENTALS, HOTELS, CONDOMINIUMS, AND RESIDENTIAL PLACES STATEWIDE

House Committee on Transportation

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** S.C.R. 136, S.D. 1 which request that the DOT create safe routes for seniors living in housing units, rentals, hotels, condominiums, and residential places statewide.

The DOT supports efforts to improve multimodal transportation. We have an existing pedestrian program and Complete Streets policy and procedures. Pedestrian program priorities are set through an ongoing technical process coupled with community and public input to identify needs and priorities and develop recommended improvements. This process includes an analysis of demographic data to identify populations, including seniors, that would likely have a higher need for pedestrian infrastructure. Examples of completed or upcoming projects that have been implemented near senior housing or in areas (according to census data) with high populations of seniors include:

- over half of the upcoming 60 raised crosswalk locations that have been identified for implementation statewide (underway)
- filling sidewalk gaps along Kaahumanu Avenue between Kainani Street and Wharf Street in Maui (underway)
- intersection improvements at Kaunualii Highway and Papalina Road intersection (completed)
- closed sidewalk gap along Ala Moana Boulevard between Bishop Street and Richards Streets (completed)
- installed raised crosswalks along Mamalahoa Highway in Naalehu (completed)

We comply with all American Disabilities Act requirements and follow national best practices and standards. Many of the concerns specifically described in the resolution, such as elevation changes in walkways or pathways, and uneven or slick surfaces, are already addressed through these existing requirements.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



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

Re: **SCR 136 SD 1– Requesting that the Department of Transportation prepare a proposed list and prioritize projects to create safe routes for Senior Citizens living in housing units, rentals, hotels, condominium, and residential places statewide**

Hearing: Wednesday, April 13, 2022, 11:00 a.m., Conference Room 423 & via
videoconference

Position: **STRONG SUPPORT**

The Health Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i stands in strong support of SCR 136 SD 1. This Resolution would request that the Department of Transportation to prepare a proposed list and prioritize projects to create safe routes for senior citizens living in housing units, rentals, hotels, condominiums, and residential places statewide.

Because kupuna are more susceptible to slips, trips and falls due to uneven elevation changes in walkways, pathways, and slick surfaces and other dangerous conditions and objects in their paths, and in certain areas, kupuna housing complexes are located in close proximity to busy, major thoroughfares and highways, creating foreseeable dangerous conditions for kupuna and other pedestrians who may require longer time periods to cross the thoroughfare based on age and physical condition, implementation of this Resolution would decrease these known risks of harm to kupuna and save lives and serious bodily injuries.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify on this matter. Please pass this Resolution for the safety of our kupuna and others who live and work in areas that pose a high risk of bodily injury and death from being struck while crossing or walking or biking along the side of major thoroughfares and intersections.

Mahalo nui loa,

Melodie Aduja Chair, Health Committee