

20 March 2023

Re. Hawaii State Resolution 198

LATE

To whom it may concern,

I support State Resolution 198, which proposes to improve the parking lot space and access at Kea'au Beach park and to move the Oahu's west-most turn around point for The Bus to the improved Kea'au Beach park space. Doing so will solve several significant safety hazard issues along Makau Street (these are detailed below). The proposed improvement will also give The Bus drivers a good place to take their break and to use the restroom etc (they currently stop along Farrington at Makaha Beach, which is not ideal). As an added advantage, SR198 would serve to improve public access to Kea'au Beach Park.

The Bus currently uses Makau Street as a turn-around spot when it reaches its west-most destination and turns back toward town. The Bus turns left from Farrington Highway onto Lawaia Steet, then left onto Makau Street, then ~0.4 miles along Makau back to Farrington (see Figure 1 left). The proposed turn-around is ~0.4 miles north of the current turn-around spot (see Figure 2 right).

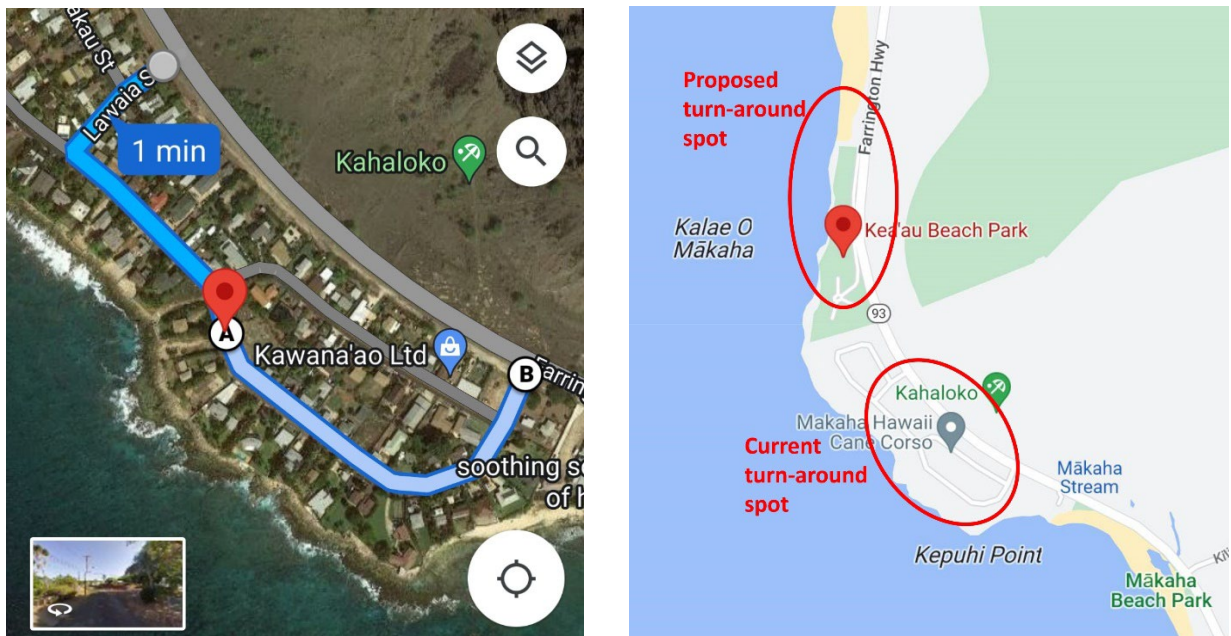


Figure 1. Google Screenshot of (left) The Bus turn-around route through the busy residential beach neighborhood along Makau Street and (right) Location of proposed turn-around spot (top) relative to current turn-around spot (bottom)

The residential beach loop north in question is immediately north-west of Makaha Beach. It is generally a safe, family-friendly, active beach neighborhood. Makau Street itself has grassy shoulders with no sidewalks, and private property/houses on both sides. Vehicles must slow down and sometimes need to stop/pull over to pass each other, especially around bends. People often park their cars along the side of

the street (on the grass) to visit friends/family and/or to get to beach access points, so it's generally necessary to walk on the street itself. See Figure 2 which shows The Bus driving on Makau Street. Meanwhile, residents, visitors, children, and families walk, skateboard, and bicycle along Makau Street to enjoy the neighborhood, visit family/neighbors and to access the beach. Kids often play in the street.

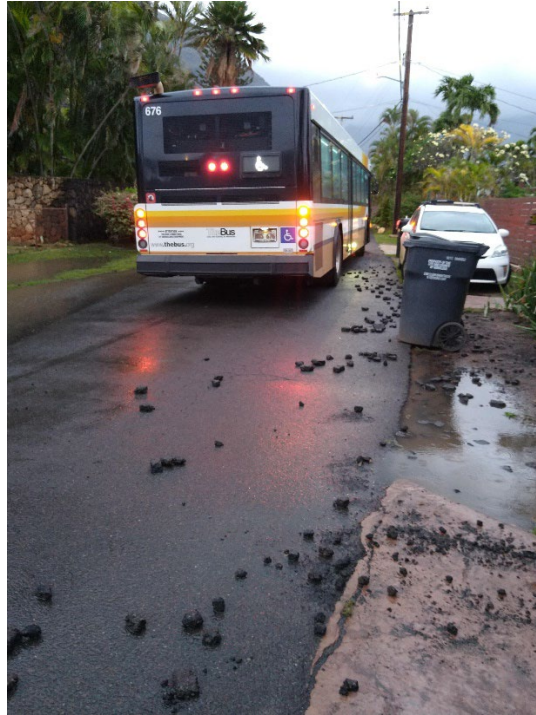


Figure 2. The Bus on Makau Street.

Because Makau Street is relatively narrow and is so heavily used, it is not safe for The Bus to use it as a turn-around point. I've seen several close-calls involving kids who unexpectedly spilled out from driveways into the street while playing. I've heard of 2 pets that were run over by The Bus after darting out from adjacent homes. I've personally had to dodge out of the way of The Bus several times as it rounds the corner to head back to Farrington.

Having The Bus drive along Makau Street is dangerous during the day, and even more so at night as the street is poorly lit and has several corners. It is a dangerous situation for pedestrians. It is also dangerous for vehicle drivers, especially while pulling out of driveways (directly onto Makau Street). Having to loop through Makau Street is not fair to The Bus drivers who need to navigate the busy, inappropriate residential portion of their route toward the end of a long leg.

Please consider SR 198. It will help ensure the safety and well-being of Makau Street residents, neighbors, and visitors, as well as that of The Bus drivers.

Respectfully submitted by
Dr. Eva-Marie Nosal
84-275 Makau Street
Waianae, Hawaii 96792