

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI  
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

**Date:** 02/09/2023

**Time:** 02:30 PM

**Location:** 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

**Committee:** House Education

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** HB 0600, HD1 RELATING TO SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL.

**Purpose of Bill:** Establishes the safe routes to school advisory committee within the planning branch of the highways division of the department of transportation. Appropriates moneys. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education supports HB 600, HD1, and its goal to secure safe routes for biking, rolling, walking, and public transit to Hawaii's public schools but defers to the Department of Transportation as to the viability of establishing a committee within their department.

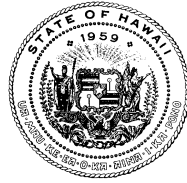
Establishing a work group with one full-time coordinator provides an opportunity for a focused effort on a strategic plan with a broader array of transportation options that service various groups and scenarios.

Pursuant to Section 8-27-4, Hawaii Administrative Rules, elementary students that live within one mile of their home school and secondary students that live within one and a half miles of their home school are not eligible for transportation. This measure has the potential to provide safe and secure alternatives for getting to and from school for those that live within the walk zone and are not eligible for transportation. Families are often uncomfortable allowing their children to walk alone but cannot walk with them because of employment obligations or other factors. Families living within the walk zone will choose to drive their children to school instead, which causes chronic traffic congestion during morning and afternoon drop-offs.

Transportation to and from school is a common barrier to full participation for students in unstable housing or identified as homeless under the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. Existing transportation options do not always meet the needs of these students, especially if rides are needed before and after school to participate fully in non-school hour

programming.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO  
P.O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony COMMENTING on H.B. 600, H.D. 1  
RELATING TO SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL**

REPRESENTATIVE JUSTIN H. WOODSON, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Hearing Date: February 9, 2023

Room Number: Conference Room 309

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 House Bill 600, House Draft 1 (H.B.  
4 600, H.D. 1) which would establish the Safe Routes to school (SRTS) advisory committee to  
5 develop a comprehensive statewide SRTS plan to advise the State on strategies to ensure that  
6 each child in the State is able to safely, bike, walk, roll, or bus to that child's respective school  
7 and appropriates funds for the DOT to hire additional staffing, procure facilities and equipment  
8 necessary to support the SRTS advisory committee, and match federal funding for sidewalks.

9 Physical activity is essential to the development of the whole child and in establishing  
10 positive health behaviors throughout the lifespan.<sup>1</sup> In 2019, just 13% of Hawaii High School  
11 students and 17% of Hawaii Middle School students met the federal guidelines for physical  
12 activity.<sup>2,3</sup> SRTS programs create communities where children and people of all ages can walk,

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<sup>1</sup> Elliott, E., Greenberg, J., Battista, R., Guerrero, H.G. (2021). Physical Activity Recommendations for Children and Adolescents: More Important Than Ever. US Physical Activity Alliance. Washington, DC: US.

<sup>2</sup> Hawaii State Departments of Health and Education, Hawaii Health Data Warehouse, Youth Risk Behavior Survey. '[Physical activity - meet federal guidelines, High Schools, State-level, 2019].' Hawaii-IBIS <http://ibis.hhdw.org/ibisph-view>. Accessed on [January 27, 2023].

<sup>3</sup> Hawaii State Departments of Health and Education, Hawaii Health Data Warehouse, Youth Risk Behavior Survey. '[Physical Activity - meet federal guidelines, Middle Schools, State-Level, 2019].' Hawaii-IBIS <http://ibis.hhdw.org/ibisph-view>. Accessed on [January 27, 2023].

1 bike, and roll safely and are associated with increased active transportation, including an increase  
2 in the number of students walking or biking to and from school.

3 While state level data is limited, the proportion of students across the United States from  
4 kindergarten to grade eight who walk or bike to school fell from 48% in 1969 to only 13% in  
5 2009.<sup>4</sup> In Hawaii, 34% of high school and 38% of middle school students reported they walked  
6 or rode their bikes to or from school one or more days on average, and rates are lower for the  
7 neighbor island counties.<sup>5</sup> A 2014 evaluation of several state-level SRTS projects found that  
8 they were associated with significant increases in active school travel (from 12.9 percent to 17.6  
9 percent), walking (from 9.8 percent to 14.2 percent) and bicycling (from 2.5 percent to 3.0  
10 percent).<sup>6</sup> SRTS efforts are also important for advancing equity to create safer conditions for  
11 children and families with disabilities or who live in low-income neighborhoods.<sup>7</sup>

12 H.B. 600, H.D. 1 is aligned with the DOH Healthy Hawaii Strategic Plan 2030 and  
13 addresses the physical activity objectives to increase the miles of low stress bicycle and  
14 pedestrian infrastructure across the state, and for the state and each county to identify and adopt  
15 mode-share goals and measurements that prioritize walking, wheelchairs, and bicycling. The  
16 DOH supports the implementation of the Department of Education (DOE) Wellness Guidelines  
17 and conducts a yearly Safety and Wellness Survey that evaluates the implementation of the  
18 guidelines in all DOE schools. The DOE Wellness Guidelines include objectives to support  
19 active transport by encouraging students and staff to walk and/or bike to school.

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<sup>4</sup> McDonald, N.C., Brown, A.L., Marchetti, L.M., & Pedroso, M.S. (2011). U.S. school travel, 2009 an assessment of trends. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 41(2), 146–51. doi: 10.1016/j.amepre.2011.04.006

<sup>5</sup> Hawaii State Departments of Education and Health, [Hawaii Health Data Warehouse, Hawaii School Health Survey: Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2015, 2017, 2019 Active Transport](#). Accessed 2-08-2023.

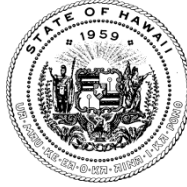
<sup>6</sup> Stewart O, Moudon AV, Claybrooke C. Multistate evaluation of Safe Routes to School Programs. *Am J Health Promotion* 2014;28(Suppl 3): S89–96.

<sup>7</sup> Zimmerman S, Lieberman M, Kramer K, Sadler B. At the intersection of active transportation and equity: Joining forces to make communities healthier and fairer. 2015.

1           The DOH looks forward to continued collaboration with the DOT and commits to  
2 actively participate in the SRTS advisory committee if established, to ensure that health metrics  
3 and health equity are included in any performance measures.

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

5   **Offered Amendments:** None



**TESTIMONY BY:**  
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN  
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors  
DREANALEE K. KALILI  
TAMMY L. LEE  
ROBIN K. SHISHIDO  
JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA

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

February 9, 2023

2:30 P.M.

State Capitol, Room 309, Videoconference

**H.B. 600, H.D. 1**  
**RELATING TO SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL**

House Committee on Education

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The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports the intent** of H.B. 600, H.D. 1 and offers comments. H.B. 600, H.D. 1 establishes an additional program and committee that would be connected to the Department for administrative purposes only to develop strategies and facilitate transportation-related projects. It also appropriates funds and amends Hawai'i Revised Statutes Chapter 264-18 to require five percent of federal and state highway funds to be expended on establishment of multiuse, bike lanes, and bike paths and installation of signage and safety devices along bikeways.

Providing a safe transportation system is integral to the DOT's mission and safety is addressed in every project that is implemented. While the DOT supports creating and maintaining a transportation system that provides safe mobility for all modes and users, we are concerned that this bill creates processes that are duplicative and would conflict with the DOT's existing efforts.

Safety is the State's #1 priority. We have reported on our robust educational enforcement and engineering programs which we implemented to successfully save lives over years. We are proud partners with all counties who are equally dedicated to zero deaths on our roadways. We meet regularly with the four counties and metropolitan planning organizations to discuss project implementation, safety focus, and opportunities for funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funding and programs, including discretionary grant opportunities for safety such as Safe Streets and Roads for All. In this past federal fiscal year, DOT transferred \$25,000,000 to the four counties to provide funding for transit rolling stock and bus operations. The DOT will be providing up to \$60,000,000 of additional funding this fiscal year.

The problem DOT has is not lack of process, but a lack of funding. Additional funds dedicated specifically to bicycling and pedestrian safety are key to improving alternative modes of transportation. The DOT recommends appropriating \$50,000,000 in general funds to the DOT to address bicycle and pedestrian facilities on State and County transportation systems. The funding could be utilized immediately to advance the

highest priority initiatives as identified by legislators, community members, and existing bike and ped plans from counties and the State. The priorities can be set based on recommendations from the Safe Routes for People committee if established.

The DOT supports the intent of this measure to improve safety for vulnerable users of the system. Establishing a one-time infusion of capital specifically for this improvement, and a committee to recommend improvements would be beneficial to the communities we serve and advance the State's Vision Zero approach.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



STATE OF HAWAII  
HAWAII CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION & ADAPTATION  
COMMISSION  
POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Co-Chairs:**  
Chair, DLNR  
Director, OPSD

**Commissioners:**  
Chair, Senate AEN  
Chair, Senate WTL  
Chair, House EEP  
Chair, House WAL  
Chairperson, HTA  
Chairperson, DOA  
CEO, OHA  
Chairperson, DHHL  
Director, DBEDT  
Director, DOT  
Director, DOH  
Chairperson, DOE  
Director, C+C DPP  
Director, Maui DP  
Director, Hawai'i DP  
Director, Kaua'i DP  
The Adjutant General  
Manager, CZM

**Testimony of  
Leah Laramée  
Coordinator, Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission**

**Before the House Committee on  
EDUCATION**

**Thursday, February 9, 2023  
2:30 PM**

**State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 309**

**In support of  
House Bill 600 House Draft 1  
RELATING TO SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL**

House Bill 600 House Draft 1 establishes the safe routes to school advisory committee and appropriates funds. **The Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (Commission) supports this measure.**

The Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission consists of a multi-jurisdictional effort between 20 different departments, committees, and counties. Access to safe, accessible walkways and bikeways delivers on Hawai'i's climate, equity, and public health goals. The Commission's report *Investing in Transportation Choices: Recommendations for Safe, Sustainable, Affordable, and Reliable Mobility* states that projects to address dangerous intersections such as Safe Routes to Schools and Parks, traffic calming, and shared-use paths are underfunded in Hawai'i. The Commission recognizes we need more significant investments in pedestrian, bicycle, and transit facilities. Moving people around with safer and sustainable transportation options that integrate walking, bicycling, rolling, transit, and wheelchair use while connecting routes to all of a region's geographic areas can improve community development, foster economic revitalization, link people to the health care system, schools, and jobs, improve air quality and help address climate change.

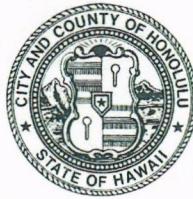
There is no single solution to bettering built environments. Instead, community, state and federal governments, along with advocacy groups and community members, must work together to implement policies and guide investments that will allow for people to feel safe while navigating their cities and towns outside of personal vehicles. Establishing the safe routes to school advisory committee is a good first step in achieving this.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.



**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET · HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
TELEPHONE: (808) 529-3111 · INTERNET: www.honolulu.org



RICK BLANGIARDI  
MAYOR

ARTHUR J. LOGAN  
CHIEF

KEITH K. HORIKAWA  
RADE K. VANIC  
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE ST-TK

February 9, 2023

The Honorable Justin H. Woodson, Chair  
and Members  
Committee on Education  
House of Representatives  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 309  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Woodson and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill No. 600, H.D. 1, Relating to Safe Routes to School

I am Stason Tanaka, Acting Major of the Traffic Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD supports House Bill No. 600, H.D. 1, Relating to Safe Routes to School.

The HPD supports the proposal to establish a safe routes to school advisory committee and all measures that increase the safety of pedestrians.

Implementing this program can assist in reducing the congestion on our roadways. Should this bill pass, the implementation of safe passages encourages other forms of transportation such as walking, bicycling, skateboarding, etc. The program and committee may also find viable solutions to help reduce the number of pedestrian-related fatalities each year.

The HPD urges you to support House Bill No. 600, H.D. 1, Relating to Safe Routes to School. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

APPROVED:

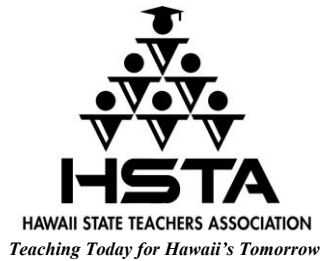
Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Arthur J. Logan.

Arthur J. Logan  
Chief of Police

Handwritten signature of Stason Tanaka.

Stason Tanaka, Acting Major  
Traffic Division



1200 Ala Kapuna Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819  
Tel: (808) 833-2711 ♦ Fax: (808) 839-7106 ♦ Web: www.hsta.org

Corey Rosenlee  
President

Osa Tui, Jr.  
Vice President

Logan Okita  
Secretary-Treasurer

Ann Mahi  
Executive Director

## TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: HB 600 HD1 - RELATING TO SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2023

OSA TUI, JR., PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Woodson and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports HB 600 HD1**, relating to Safe Routes to School. This bill establishes the safe routes to school advisory committee within the planning branch of the highways division of the department of transportation. Appropriates moneys. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

Safe Routes to School facilitates walking and biking to school which helps keep students active while at the same time decreasing rush hour traffic. According to the U.S. Department of Transportation 10-14% of morning rush traffic is school-travel traffic. Thus, an SRTS program can reduce morning traffic and corresponding carbon emissions. Furthermore, providing students with a safe route to bike and/or walk to school promotes their health and safety which is especially crucial in rural and low socioeconomic communities due to higher risk of pedestrian and bicycling injuries. Because there are several rural and low socioeconomic communities in our state, this would allow our schools need to be heard and this advisory committee would be extremely helpful as a plan is further rolled out for Safe Routes to School in our neighborhoods where our students walk to school.

To promote the health and safety of students as they commute to school, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.



## HIPHI Board

Misty Pacheco, DrPH  
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University of Hawai'i at Hilo

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Native Hawaiian Research Office

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Na'au Healing Center

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University of Hawai'i - West O'ahu

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Hale Makua Health Services

Dina Shek, JD  
Medical-Legal Partnership  
For Children in Hawai'i

Garret Sugai  
HMSA

Kathleen Roche, MS, RN, CENP  
Kaiser Permanente

May Okihiro, MD, MS  
John A. Burns School of Medicine,  
Department of Pediatrics

Titiimaea Ta'ase, JD  
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 Collective

Date: February 6, 2023

To: Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair  
Representative Lisa Marten, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Education

Re: Support for HB 600 HD1, Relating to Safe Routes to School

Hrg: Thursday, February 9, 2023, at 2:30 PM Conf Rm 309

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The Obesity Prevention Task Force (OPTF), a program of Hawai'i Public Health Institute<sup>i</sup> (HIPHI), is in **support of HB 600 HD1**, which establishes a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Advisory Board and funds a full-time SRTS coordinator position within the Hawai'i Department of Transportation (HDOT).

### The lack of safe routes to school puts keiki at risk.

Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI) appreciates the opportunity to provide SUPPORT for **HB 600 HD1**. This measure establishes a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) advisory committee to coordinate with the State Department of Transportation and other invested stakeholders to create a comprehensive, statewide SRTS strategic plan. **HB 600 HD1** also provides for a statewide SRTS Coordinator, a position dedicated to facilitating the SRTS strategic plan and building interdepartmental bridges.

A strategic, outcome-based approach to SRTS is necessary to take full advantage of state funds and federal funding coming to Hawai'i through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). This opportunity is a historic way to invest in creating safe, accessible, and inclusive active transportation options for our keiki and future generations. To support inclusivity, a representative who is familiar with the challenges of the most vulnerable populations in schools could be added to the advisory committee.

The State of Hawai'i has aggressive climate, health, and equity goals. **HB 600 HD1** is one policy that will help Hawai'i:

1. Support safe places for all keiki to walk, bike, and roll to school;
2. Reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2045 (State Climate Commission Goal);
3. Increase the total miles of low-stress pedestrian infrastructure by 50 miles (Department of Health); and

4. Eliminate disparate outcomes by race and ethnicity across all sectors.  
This measure is important because it dedicates a committee, a program coordinator, a strategic plan, and frees up funding to build safe, accessible, and inclusive places for keiki to walk and roll. **HB 600 HD1** will positively impact our communities and future generations.

For the above reasons, OPTF urges the committee to consider our suggested amendments and to **PASS HB 600 HD1**. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Mahalo,



Peggy Mierzwa  
Advocacy & Policy Director  
Hawai'i Public Health Institute



**Testimony to the House Committee on Education  
Thursday, February 9, 2023; 2:30 p.m.  
State Capitol; Conference Room 309  
Via Videoconference**

**RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 0600, HOUSE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL.**

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Marten, and Members of the Committee:

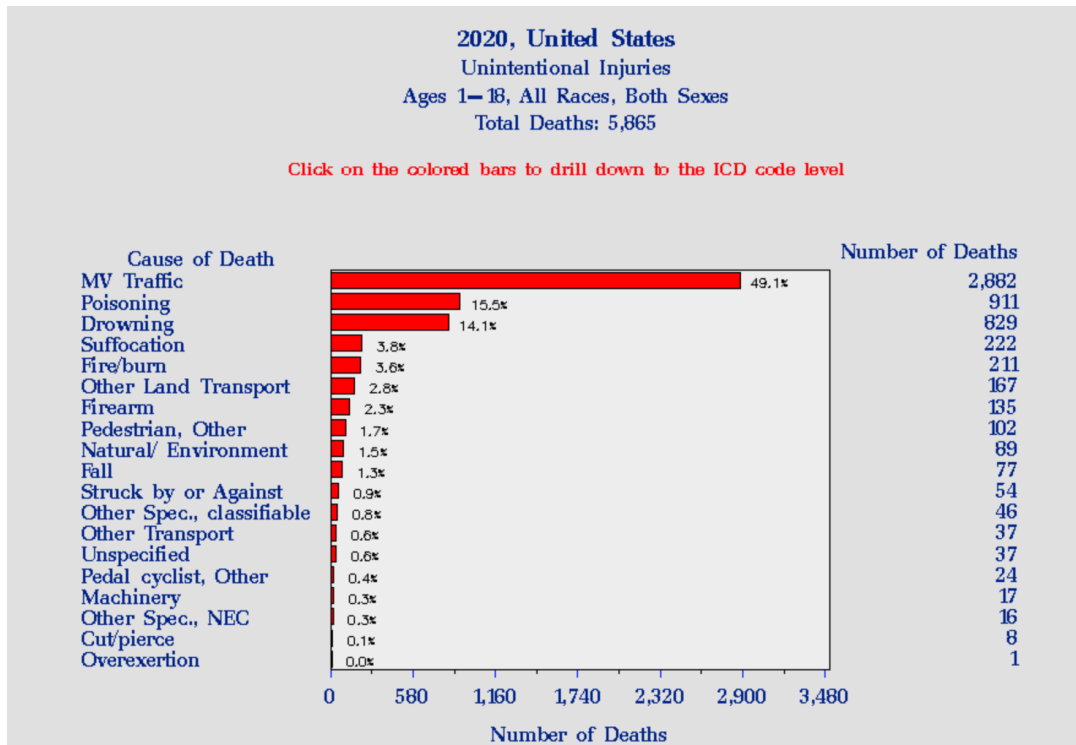
The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** House Bill No. 0600, House Draft 1 RELATING TO SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii's Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines to over 150,000 patients each year who live in rural and underserved communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of healthcare.

This measure, as received by your Committee, would:

- (1) Establish the safe routes to school advisory committee to develop a comprehensive statewide safe routes to school plan to develop strategies that would allow each child in the State to safely bike, walk, roll, or bus to school;
- (2) Appropriate an unspecified amount of general funds for fiscal years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025, to hire one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) safe routes to school program coordinator position, procure necessary facilities and equipment, and match federal funds related to sidewalks; and
- (3) Take effect on July 1, 3000.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the leading cause of death for persons aged 1 to 18 in the United States in 2020 was unintentional injury, of which by more than 30% differential, motor vehicle traffic accidents was the leading cause.



(See, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, <https://wisqars.cdc.gov/fatal-leading>.)

Among adolescents aged 15-19 years in Hawaii, unintentional injury is the leading cause of death, accounting for more than 40% of all deaths in this age group. The majority of these are motor vehicle-related, followed by accidental drowning and poisoning. (See, Hawaii Health Matters, <https://www.hawaiihealthmatters.org/indicators/index/view?indicatorId=2420&localeId=14>.)

Because of this, it is essential that the State identify ways of reducing the occurrence of traffic accidents and ensure that Hawaii's keiki are able to go to and from school safely at all times. **As such, the HPCA urges your favorable consideration of this bill.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Affairs and Policy Director Erik K. Abe at 536-8442, or [eabe@hawaiiPCA.net](mailto:eabe@hawaiiPCA.net).



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3442 Waiialae Ave., Suite 1  
Honolulu, HI 96816

PHONE  
808-735-5756

EMAIL  
bicycle@hbl.org

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
Thursday, February 9, 2023 – 2:30PM

**Hawai'i Bicycling League Supports HB600 HD1, relating to Safe Routes to Schools**

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Marten, and Committee Members,

My name is Travis Counsell, and I am the Executive Director of the Hawai'i Bicycling League (HBL). We are a non-profit organization founded in 1975 with the mission of enabling more people to ride bicycles for health, recreation, and transportation. We strive to create communities across our islands that have safe, accessible, and inclusive environments for people to bike, walk, and roll. This means creating infrastructure that is designed for all users with safety as a top priority.

**Hawai'i Bicycling League supports HB600 HD1**, which establishes a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) advisory committee within the planning branch of HDOT.

Each year, through HBL's BikeEd Hawaii education program, we educate over 8000 'Oahu fourth graders about bicycle safety. This is a program predominately funded by the City & County of Honolulu's Department of Transportation and has been operating since 1989. The goal of this program is to ensure that our keiki are riding bicycles in safe manners and are given the skills to ideally ride to school. One of the largest barriers to infrastructure that is built for keiki riding bicycles. Establishing a Safe Routes to School advisory committee to develop a comprehensive SRTS plan to ensure all keiki are able to bike, walk, roll, skip, cartwheel, etc safely to school is directly in line with HBL's BikeEd Hawaii's goal.

Additionally, HBL is in support of the bill's appropriation for a full-time SRTS Coordinator at the state level to assist in the implementation of SRTS and coordinate the SRTS advisory committee.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony. Please support **HB600 HD1** and help create safe routes for our keiki, which will create safer communities for all.

Ride Aloha,

**Travis Counsell**  
Executive Director  
Hawai'i Bicycling League



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

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE  
Thursday, February 9, 2023 — 2:00 p.m.

**Ulupono Initiative supports HB 348 HD1, Relating to Renewable Energy.**

Dear Chair Nakashima 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 choices, and better management of freshwater resources.

**Ulupono supports HB 348 HD1**, which allows the counties to establish, by ordinance, an opt-in program that allows an annual payment in lieu of real property taxes on the land or improvements thereon that are actively used to produce or store renewable energy that is sold to an electric utility.

Ulupono supports the State's commitment to generate 100% of its electricity from renewable energy sources by 2045. To achieve this goal, all counties will undoubtedly need to rely on commercial-scale renewable energy projects. As such, regardless of the process that derived such significant increases in property taxes on certain renewable energy projects, Ulupono supports the intent of this measure to ease the newly created tax burden on certain renewable energy projects.

Ulupono believes that counties should also be cognizant of the process by which renewable energy developers establish their pricing. Increasing property taxes for existing and future renewable energy projects will almost certainly increase the cost of renewable energy and affect the viability/timeline of renewable energy projects in development, slowing the pace at which Hawai'i can achieve its 2045 clean energy goal.

We appreciate the State's attempt to allow positive county alternatives to support renewable energy projects across Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata  
Director of Government Affairs

*Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i*





# ALOHACARE

To: Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair  
Representative Lisa Marten, Vice-Chair  
House Committee on Education

From: Paula Arcena, Government Affairs  
Mike Nguyen, Government Affairs

Hearing: Thursday, February 9, 2023

RE: **HB600, HD1 Relating to Safe Routes to School**

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AlohaCare appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of HB600, HD1**. This measure establishes the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) advisory committee to coordinate with the Department of Transportation and other invested stakeholders to make recommendations to the State on strategies to ensure every child is able to walk, bike, roll or bus safely to school. This measure also appropriates funds to hire additional staff including a dedicated, full-time safe routes to school program coordinator.

Founded in 1994 by Hawai`i's community health centers, AlohaCare is a community-rooted, non-profit health plan serving over 80,000 Medicaid and dual-eligible health plan members on all islands. Approximately half of our membership are keiki. We are Hawai`i's only health plan exclusively dedicated to serving Medicaid beneficiaries. Our mission is to serve individuals and communities in the true spirit of aloha by ensuring and advocating for access to quality health care for all. We believe that health is about supporting whole-person care.

Creating an advisory committee will bring together stakeholders from a broad range of sectors, they will bring a variety of experiences to develop a strategic plan that prioritizes our most vulnerable children, recommend strategies for schools and communities to more easily access funding, and help to stabilize SRTS funding in the state.

Our keiki have the right to get to school safely. They should be encouraged to walk, bike, roll and bus to increase physical movement and decrease auto use. Lack of physical movement leads to higher rates of obesity, heart disease, high blood pressure and diabetes. The infrastructure of where people live directly correlates to their health. Incomplete pedestrian routes create avoidable, unnecessary risk for our keiki. Lack of safe infrastructure and poor health are disproportionately found in areas with the highest rates of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged residents. In addition to improving public health, this measure creates a path to more clearly address the state's transportation costs, greenhouse emissions, and decrease injuries and fatalities.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in **support of HB600, HD1**.

1357 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 1250, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814  
Call: 973-0712 • Toll-free: 1-877-973-0712 • Fax: 808-973-0726 • [www.AlohaCare.org](http://www.AlohaCare.org)



*Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks! is a nonpartisan 501c4 nonprofit committed to advocating for children and their families. Our core issues are safety, health, and education.*

To: Representative Woodson, Chair  
Representative Marten, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Education

Re: HB600 HD1, relating to safe routes to school  
2:30 p.m., Feb. 9, 2023

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Marten and committee members:

On behalf of Hawai'i Children's Action Network (HCAN) Speaks!, mahalo for the opportunity to **testify in SUPPORT and provide comments on House Bill 600, relating to safe routes to schools.**

Too many communities in Hawai'i do not have adequate transportation infrastructure that works for our most vital users: keiki. Children using active transportation options—whether by choice or necessity—have to walk, ride or roll on unsafe, high-traffic roads. The result is that children and families often feel like they have no safe place on our roads, sidewalks or other transportation infrastructure.

Some questions have been raised in previous committees and on similar bills about how many families actually need or want infrastructure for children to walk, ride or roll to school. When children and families don't feel safe getting to school any way other than by car, they will choose the car—even if it comes at significant costs. We cannot judge need by families' desire for this infrastructure because **many families have never had the opportunity to dream another way.** HB600 is a first step toward a systematic building of choices.

**We would encourage the inclusion of a member that can speak to how our youngest learners get to and from our public schools.** Hundreds of 3- and 4-year-olds across the islands need to get to and from Department of Education (DOE) and charter school campuses to participate in Head Start, special education or EOEL Public Prekindergarten programs. There are also at least two Early Head Start programs on DOE campuses that care for and educate infants and toddlers. Nationally, Head Start families regularly note transportation as one of the biggest barriers to participation. Families with young children face transportation challenges that are unlike those with older children. This includes but is not limited to the need for different and more protective car seats and the need to travel with additional supplies (e.g. diapers, wipes, bottles), all of which may or may not be conducive to active and public transportation.

**We respectfully ask the committee consider adding a representative for the education of young children birth to kindergarten as a mandatory member of the Safe Routes to School Advisory Committee.**

Please support HB600 and consider inviting the voices of those who educate and care for young children on DOE and charter school campuses to the table.

Mahalo,

Ke'ōpū Reelitz  
Director of Early Learning and Health Policy

**HB-600-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 8:17:56 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/9/2023 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michelle K.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

I am supportive of this bill because forming the safe routes to school advisory committee is a start to ensuring safe routes for kids to get to school and to run errands. Kids don't have driver's license and in order to prevent another death on our roads, please pass this bill to kickstart the need for safe routes. When our kids are safe, the rest of us could have peace of mind when we go about our daily routines at work. Thank you for your kind consideration!

Mahalo,

Michelle K.

**HB-600-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 8:36:23 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/9/2023 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Christian Engelhardt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Safe routes to school are important for the community to reduce car traffic and provide alternative transportation. Kids don't ride bikes to school because it's not safe. We need to create safe routes to schools to change the perception on safety of bike riding and walking. We need to teach children that there is an alternative to cars and it is good for our communities.



Healthy Eating Active Living  
Community Coalition  
of Kauai County

P.O. Box 392  
Kilauea, HI 96754  
(808) 212-4765  
bbrody1@hawaii.rr.com  
www.getfitkauai.com

**Steering Committee Members**

Janet Berreman, MD, MPH,  
FAAP  
Kauai District Health Officer

Neil J. Clendeninn MD, PhD  
*Chair, Lihue Tomorrow  
Committee of LBA  
(Lihue Business Association)*

Alan Clinton, MRP, M.Sc., B.S.  
*Administrative Planning Officer  
County of Kauai, Planning  
Department*

Howard Gregg  
*Community Member*

Michelle Jenkins, MPH  
*Kauai District Health & Physical  
Education  
Resource Teacher*

Michelle Martinez, MPH  
*Martinez Consulting*

Tommy A. Noyes  
*Kauai Path*

Valerie  
Saki  
*Hawaii Public Health Institute*

Marie Williams, MCRP, AICP  
*County of Kauai Planning Dept.*

**Ex-Officio**  
Bev Brody, PT  
*Coalition Director*

February 7, 2023

House Committee on Education

Thursday, February 9, 2023 at 2:30 P.M.  
Conference Room 309 & Video Conference

HB600 HD1  
Relating to Safe Routes to School

To the Honorable Chair Woodson, Vice-Chair Marten, and members of the House  
Committee on Education;

On behalf of Get Fit Kaua'i, the Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) Community Coalition of  
Kaua'i County, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to testify and voice strong  
support for HD600 HD1.

Get Fit Kaua'i is a dynamic community coalition consisting of over 1000 affiliates and  
partners. Members represent multiple sectors and disciplines including educators,  
parents, students, elected officials, engineers, city planners, business and community  
leaders, health officials, bicycle and pedestrian advocates, law enforcement personal,  
Department of Transportaion and numerous community individuals that have been  
committed to promoting physical activity and healthy eating on Kauai since 1994.

Get Fit Kauai strongly supports HD600 HD1 which will develop a statewide committee that  
will be responsible for creating Safe Routes to School strategic plan with clear goals, as  
well as create a position for a statewide coordinator who will be able to support local  
communities in delivering equity-focused Safe Routes to Schools projects and  
programming. In addition, HD600 HD1 ensures Hawaii will be able to take full advantage  
of all the money that comes through the Federal Department of Transportation for the  
Safe Routes to School efforts.

Get Fit Kaua'i enthusiastically supports this bill and urges you to vote in favor of HB600  
HD1.

Thank you for your time and your consideration.

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**Bev Brody**  
**Get Fit Kaua'i – Director**  
H.E.A.L. (Healthy Eating Active Living)  
Community Coalition of Kauai County  
(808) 212-4765

**HB-600-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 10:27:46 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/9/2023 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David Kingdon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Legislators: As a paramedic and public health practitioner, I support this important bill. Please consider the points below, and thanks for your consideration. --David Kingdon, MPH, Paramedic

- All road users are entitled to being safe.
- Traffic-related deaths have increased over the past decade. In 2014 there were 95 deaths, while 2022 saw 117 deaths (DOH).
- When we prioritize road safety from keiki to kūpuna, everyone benefits.
- Impactful and funded safe routes strategies are necessary to improve road safety in Hawai'i.
- This bill calls for a variety of strategies to be put in place such as protected walkways, better signage, safety devices, and protected bikeways, and it calls for sufficient funding of those projects.
- Improving safety for people to ride, walk or roll increases the opportunities for everyone to safely increase physical activity, which in turn positively impacts health and helps to address the root causes of many chronic diseases.
- While state level data is limited, the proportion of students across the U.S. in grades K–8 who walk or bike to school fell from 48% in 1969 to only 13% in 2009 .
- When states prioritize road safety through systemic programming, there is increased walking and biking to and from school.
- The percentage of students who walked to and from school increased from 7-8 percent to 15-16 percent.
- The percentage of students who biked to and from school increased from one percent to two percent.
- A 2014 evaluation of state-level safe routes projects found that they were associated with significant increases in active school travel (from 12.9 percent to 17.6 percent), walking (from 9.8 percent to 14.2 percent), and bicycling (from 2.5 percent to 3.0 percent).
- Safe streets efforts can be even more important for subpopulations such as children with a disability or those that live in low-income neighborhoods.

**HB-600-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 11:29:56 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/9/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Nihipali	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

- All road users are entitled to being safe.
- Traffic-related deaths have increased over the past decade. In 2014 there were 95 deaths, while 2022 saw 117 deaths (DOH).
- When we prioritize road safety from keiki to kūpuna, everyone benefits.
- Impactful and funded safe routes strategies are necessary to improve road safety in Hawai‘i.
- This bill calls for a variety of strategies to be put in place such as protected walkways, better signage, safety devices, and protected bikeways, and it calls for sufficient funding of those projects.
- Improving safety for people to ride, walk or roll increases the opportunities for everyone to safely increase physical activity, which in turn positively impacts health and helps to address the root causes of many chronic diseases.
- While state level data is limited, the proportion of [students across the U.S. in grades K–8 who walk or bike to school fell from 48% in 1969 to only 13% in 2009](#).
- When states prioritize road safety through systemic programming, there is increased walking and biking to and from school.
  - The percentage of students who walked to and from school increased from 7-8 percent to 15-16 percent.
  - The percentage of students who biked to and from school increased from one percent to two percent.
- A [2014 evaluation of state-level safe routes projects](#) found that they were associated with significant increases in active school travel (from 12.9 percent to 17.6 percent), walking (from 9.8 percent to 14.2 percent), and bicycling (from 2.5 percent to 3.0 percent).
- [Safe streets efforts can be even more important for subpopulations](#) such as children with a disability or those that live in low-income neighborhoods.

**Please support HB 600 HD1**

Thank you for your consideration,

Michele Nihipali

54-074 A Kam Hwy.

Hauula, HI 96717





**HB-600-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 11:38:30 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/9/2023 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David Ellis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a life long avid cyclist, I was finally hit by a car in the North Shore area while riding in a very limited shoulder on a main road. We need safe streets all through Hawaii especially on Oahu. The shoulders and bike lanes from Diamond Head to Waimanalo are very much appreciated and well used. However most anywhere else on Oahu the roads are very dangerous for cyclists of all ages and experiences. Please design, develop, implement and maintain safe streets!

Thank you for listening,

David Ellis

**HB-600-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 3:26:51 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/9/2023 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Caroline Azelski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support. Thank you.

**HB-600-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 8:06:27 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/9/2023 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Arthur Grau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support and advocate for safe human pedestrian and cycling routes even at the cost of limiting lanes for automobile traffic. please support this bill and continue to expand safe routes for humans. Thank you!

TO: Members of the Committee on Transportation

FROM: Natalie Iwasa, aka Bike Mom  
808-395-3233

HEARING: 2:30 p.m. Thursday, February 9, 2023

SUBJECT: HB 600, HD1, Safe Routes to School Advisory Committee – **SUPPORT**

Aloha Chair Woodson and Committee Members,

Thank you for allowing the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 600, HD1, which would establish a Safe Routes to School Advisory Committee and appropriate funds.

It's very disappointing but not surprising that the Department of Transportation (DOT) opposed this bill. In 2015 Cycle On Hawaii, a 501(c)(3) organization that supports Safe Routes to School (SRTS), wanted to apply for a SRTS grant to place 9" fisheye mirrors on driveways along Kalaniana'ole Hwy., so motorists would see pedestrians and bicyclists coming from either direction before they entered the roadway. (A teacher from Honolulu Waldorf School had been hit while she rode with her two children to school, because of poor line of sight.) Initial discussions indicated support for these mirrors, including among high school students and parents. Attached is the community survey that was put together to gauge interest.

The DOT made it exceptionally hard to move forward, however. They said that in order to approve the grant funds, each property owner that agreed to installation of a 9" mirror would have to carry a \$1 million insurance policy "in case anyone ever got hurt."

The DOT also put in a right-turn-only lane on Keahole Street in Hawaii Kai that made it more dangerous for pedestrians and bicyclists alike.

The DOT's testimony, that "significant majority of schools, roughly eighty-five percent, in Hawaii are not on the State Highways system," is not a good reason to oppose HB 600, because state highways are often used *to get to* schools. For example, in east Honolulu, Koko Head Elementary, Kaiser H.S., Niu Valley Intermediate, Honolulu Waldorf School, Calvary by the Sea Montessori School, Holy Nativity School, Aina Haina Elementary and Kalaheo H.S. all rely on Kalaniana'ole Hwy. for a major portion of the trip. The DOT seems to be satisfied with one mile routes, which might be a good start, but it is significantly shorter than the five or six miles that I rode leading kids to school on Bike to School Days.

The committee should consider other planning that is being done, but the state DOT seems to need a change in attitude with respect to the priorities it places on non-motorized travel. The state's history of one step forward and two back must change, and perhaps a SRTS advisory committee can get things moving in the right direction a bit quicker.



Aloha,

As you drive out your driveway, you may notice the need to pull out onto the sidewalk in order to be able to adequately see oncoming traffic. Sometimes pedestrians or bicyclists may be caught off guard, because they are unable to see cars pulling out from behind bush hedges or walls.

Cycle On Hawaii, a local 501(c)(3) charitable organization, is working with high school students in the area to create a better environment for bicyclists, pedestrians and motorists alike, so that each group is able to see the other. Through a grant from \_\_\_\_\_, Cycle On Hawaii is able to purchase convex (fisheye) mirrors for placement along certain driveways on Kalaniana'ole Hwy. between East Halemaumau and West Hind Drive. We believe this is a win-win-win, because the mirrors would allow pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists to see each other and behave accordingly. We would therefore like your permission to place a mirror at the end of your driveway.

The mirrors are 9" in diameter, made of acrylic and are for outdoor use.

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\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I(we) are interested in receiving a mirror for our driveway. We understand that mirrors will be ordered and installed later this spring, and that we are responsible for maintenance after installation.

\_\_\_\_\_ Maybe. I(we) would like to talk with someone more about this project. Please have someone contact us. The best time to call is \_\_\_\_\_,

\_\_\_\_\_ No. I (we) are not interested in this project for the following reason(s):

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

*NOTE: Phone numbers and email addresses will be used only for this project. Cycle On Hawaii is registered with the state of Hawaii. For more information: visit [CycleOnHawaii.org](http://CycleOnHawaii.org), Facebook [Cycle-On-Hawaii](https://www.facebook.com/CycleOnHawaii), [Info@CycleOnHawaii.org](mailto:Info@CycleOnHawaii.org) or call 395-3233. Donations may be made via our website.*

**LATE**

**HB-600-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 9:12:09 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/9/2023 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Bethany Albrecht	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We desperatley need safe places (sidewalks) to walk on in our community. I support this bill.