

**LESLIE H. KONDO** State Auditor

(808) 587-0800 lao.auditors@hawaii.gov

# HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION The Honorable Chris Todd, Chair

The Honorable Darius K. Kila, Vice Chair

#### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT

The Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura, Chair The Honorable Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

## H.C.R. NO. 137 REOUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT AN AUDIT ON THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S PALI HIGHWAY RESURFACING

### H.R. NO. 138 REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT AN AUDIT ON THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S PALI HIGHWAY RESURFACING

Hearing: Tuesday, March 28, 2023, 11:15 a.m.

The Office of the Auditor offers comments on H.C.R. No. 137 and H.R. No. 138, requesting the auditor to conduct an audit on the Department of Transportation's Pali Highway resurfacing. Specifically, the resolutions request the auditor to conduct and submit a performance audit of the Department of Transportation's Pali Highway resurfacing.

Performance audits examine the efficiency and effectiveness of a state program by assessing the program's activities against statutory and other criteria. Generally, program management is responsible for developing and implementing policies, procedures, and other internal controls to help ensure the program achieves its statutory purpose. An audit assesses, among other things, those policies, procedures, and controls as well as whether the program's actual activities are being performed consistent with them. The Office of the Auditor conducts performance audits in accordance with government auditing standards issued by the U.S. Comptroller General.

While we appreciate Legislators want to provide residents with timely information on the status of the project, we believe the questions asked in the resolution can best be answered directly by the department or agency. The work described in the resolutions, however, is not an audit.

Thank you for considering our testimony related to H.C.R. No. 137 and H.R. No. 138.

## HCR-137

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 3:57:58 PM

Testimony for TRN on 3/28/2023 11:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Testify
Lynn Murakami Akatsuka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

I support the passage of HCR 137. It is now going 5 years, 3 months and the finish date keeps being pushed back once more. It's time for an audit to learn what has prevented it from being completed and "lessons learned" as DOT does other road repairs for other highways and freeways.

# HCR-137

Submitted on: 3/22/2023 8:11:03 AM

Testimony for TRN on 3/28/2023 11:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Testify
cheryl B.	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

Comments: Certainly would be helpful to know what is exactly happening on the Pali. As a person, who lives near and often used it, including by bus, it seems like the same stretch of road is continually being "fixed" over and over? May be a reason, but it would be good to learn the facts.

#### TESTIMONY FOR PALI HWY AUDIT HR 138 HCR 137

Aloha Chairs and Committee Members of the TRN and LMG Committees,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in <u>STRONG SUPPORT</u> of HR 138. As a taxpayer who uses the Pali Hwy. daily, I am beyond frustrated at the slow and piecemeal progress of the DOT's improvements to this thoroughfare.

It has been 6 years since this project was initiated. The public deserves to know what is going on and why the work is not be making acceptable progress. It is 3 years past its' estimated completion date.

Daytime commuters often have no warning that one lane will be closed, resulting in long delays. I have no choice but to leave 30 minutes early for appointments as it's always a possibility that bottlenecks will await.

My husband rides a motorcycle, and the extreme unevenness of the curbing and the asphalt is very dangerous for a 2-wheeled vehicle. Oftentimes, signage regarding the unevenness is posted days after the unsafe paving is created.

Also, the large traffic signal poles installed in the middle of sidewalks appear to block sidewalk clearance for wheelchairs.

Again, as taxpayers, we have a right to know why this project remains a thorn in our sides so many years after its' expected completion date.

Please support HT 138 calling for an audit of the Pali Hwy. improvement project.

Respectfully,

**Kristine Chung** 

## **HCR-137**

Submitted on: 3/27/2023 9:27:12 PM

Testimony for TRN on 3/28/2023 11:15:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bill Plum	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

#### Comments:

The Pali Hwy is only 12 miles long. We don't have snow or a shortened construction season to deal with. The Pali was years overdue for a repaving before the project started in 2017 and the project has taken so long that the Kailua end already needs to be repaved. Yes, there was COVID, but the project should have been almost completed when COVID started and even with COVID, outdoor construction work was still permitted. The current status of the road is unsafe. Somebody needs to be held accountable.