

TESTIMONY OF
LARRY S VERAY

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HCR 60 / HR 43

RELATED TO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

March 19, 2024

Aloha, Chair Todd, Vice Chair Kila and Committee members. I am Larry Veray, Chairman for the Pearl City Neighborhood Board No. 21. I am submitting this testimony representing our board as a whole and the over 6,000 residents and families that live in Pacific Palisades in Pearl City. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of HCR 60 / HR 43, that would require the Department of Transportation to build an emergency ingress and egress road that could potentially save thousands of lives if a disaster occurred in Pacific Palisades allowing for evacuation of residents and access for emergency response vehicles.

Pacific Palisades is extremely vulnerable to a natural disaster such as hurricane high winds and flash flooding. With lessons learned from the Lahaina fires, a fast-moving wild fire could destroy the entire Palisades community. The community is built on a plateau above the main portion of Pearl City and the only access road to the area is Komo Mai Drive is a one lane, winding steep road, with a hairpin turn at the base of Palisades. There are two major vulnerabilities for the residents of Palisades: (1) a stream that runs under Komo Mai Rd at the lower elevation of the road subject to possibly a flash flooding taking out the road and (2) many of the homes are built on the peripheral are unable to build fire breaks because their property is right to the edge of those peripheral residential properties.

Over the past two decades, the residents of Palisades have been held captive to water main breaks, tree fallings, two actual hostage crises events, road flooding, traffic accidents, police shootings/investigations and much more requiring closing Komo Mai Drive the only access road to Palisades. These events have impacted thousands of residents who were unable to return home or even leave their neighborhood, waiting for hours to receive the all clear for the road to open to residents.

If there is a wild fire approaching Pacific Palisades, an ingress and egress road is needed to rapidly evacuate the 6,000 residents from this threat thus saving lives. I most strongly urge you to pass HCR 60 / HR 43. Mahalo!

Most Respectfully.

Larry S. Veray

HCR-60

Submitted on: 3/20/2024 8:38:53 AM

Testimony for TRN on 3/21/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel C. Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a resident of Pacific Palisades I strongly support this resolution. Given the history of blockages of Komo Mai Drive, it makes sense to look for ways to construct alternate exit routes.

Please approve HCR60.

Dan Smith

HCR-60

Submitted on: 3/20/2024 4:02:34 PM

Testimony for TRN on 3/21/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charmaine Doran	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for continuing to discuss an emergency route for Pacific Palisades. I have previously submitted testimony in favor of related measures. The 6000 residents, my neighbors, deserve infrastructure that helps to keep them safer during an emergency. Emergency evacuation roads and plans should be as routine as street lights. Currently, I am unaware of a state or city plan to evacuate the residents of this community should fire, mudslide, flooding or other event cut off access to our only ingress/egress. I am concerned that switching to a resolution is a convenient way to side step the emergency responsibility of the state. It also ignores the increased risk of fires to my community due to the adjacent state reserve. At minimum the state legislature should compel fire breaks & an evacuation plan from the DNLRL.

Currently, my community is without a state siren or a safe access route out if our single road is blocked. This should rise to the level of warranting state action. Real action.

Mahalo