

TESTIMONY OF  
**LARRY S VERAY**

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

**IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SCR116**

**URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK WITH THE CITY  
AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO PLAN AND IMPLEMENT OPTIONS FOR  
ALTERNATIVE INGRESS AND EGRESS ROUTES IN PACIFIC PALISADES**

April 8, 2024

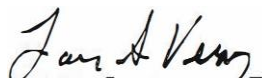
Aloha, Chair Todd Vice Chair Kila and Committee members. I am Larry Veray, Chairman for the Pearl City Neighborhood Board No. 21. I am submitting this testimony representing our board as a whole and the over 6,000 residents and families that live in Pacific Palisades in Pearl City. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of SCR116 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 SCR116. Mahalo!

Most Respectfully.



**SCR-116**

Submitted on: 4/9/2024 3:04:04 PM

Testimony for TRN on 4/11/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
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 all measures advocating for emergency route planning for my community.

I am sincerely appreciative that the State Legislature has continued to keep my community front of mind during this legislative season.

All communities deserve infrastructure that keeps them safer during emergency situations. An emergency evacuation road should be mandated by the state for all high risk communities. As we are located adjacent to a state forest reserve and horizontal a correctional facility, the state investing in the planning of an emergency route could easily be considered as essential service infrastructure or simply impact mitigation. Living next to either facility can greatly increase the risk of wildfires.

Currently, there is no adequate way to evacuate my neighbors (6,000) or the hundreds of students who attend Palisades Elementary.

I humbly requests your support of this legislation.

**SCR-116**

Submitted on: 4/9/2024 3:11:43 PM

Testimony for TRN on 4/11/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Daniel C. Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Reference: April 11, 2024, 9 am hearing on SCR 116, study of alternative routes in and out of Pacific Palisades

Aloha, Chair Todd Vice Chair Kila, and House Transportation Committee members.

As a resident of Pacific Palisades and member of the Neighborhood Board, I strongly support SCR 116. The resolution urges the State Dept. of Transportation to work with the City and County of Honolulu to evaluate and recommend alternatives to the current one way in and out of Pacific Palisades.

As others have noted, Pacific Palisades is extremely vulnerable to natural disasters such as hurricane winds, flash flooding, and a fast-moving wild fire. This century, the residents of Palisades have been held captive to water main breaks, tree fallings, two actual hostage crises events, road flooding, traffic accidents, police investigations and more requiring closing Komo Mai Drive. Within the past week, Komo Mai Dr. had one-lane traffic for several hours due to an accident near the Waimano Stream bridge.

Therefore, please approved the resolution. We all need to know the estimates of costs and benefits of the possible alternatives to Komo Mai Dr..

Mahalo,

Daniel C. (Dan) Smith