

HB-1276

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 8:20:53 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/2/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Salm	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

After the crazy gridlock of last week at the roundabout in front of Kalapawai in Kailua, it is essential that traffic can be directed and detoured without a change order.

HB-1276

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 1:34:20 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/2/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Martina Harms	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a resident of Kailua and a parent of children at Kaohao PCS, I support HB1276. The traffic created by the recently improperly routed traffic was incredibly dangerous and should have been subjected to a work/change order. Please protect our ohanas.

HB-1276

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:33:07 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/2/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dr. Judy Vincent, MD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Dr. Judy Vincent. I live at 154 Pauahilani Place in Kailua, in an area known as Country Club Knolls. I have lived at that address since 1989. I am writing to voice my complaint about the traffic caused by the “improvements” to the traffic triangle by Kalapawai Market at Kailua Beach.

On the night of Thursday, January 5, my husband and I ate dinner at Uahi Island Grill in Kailua. This restaurant is 1.2 miles from our house. It took us 45 to drive 1.2 miles to get back to our home. This was from the hours of 6:30pm to 7:15pm.

That is the same amount of time it would have taken us to drive home from a restaurant in downtown Honolulu before the start of the “improvement” on the traffic triangle.

For long periods the traffic was completely stopped. This is because the traffic from Kailua Town was routed to go around the traffic triangle, TURN LEFT onto South Kalaheo Ave in front of Kalapawai Market, then turn right just past Kalapawai Market, drive into the west side of Kailua Beach Park, and then exit the west side of Kailua Beach Park by turning left, pulling out in front of oncoming traffic from Lanikai and Country Club Knolls.

This meant that the traffic was going around in a circle in Kailua Beach Park around Kalapawai Market in a clockwise direction. The entry into, and the exit out of, the circle was constantly plugged because traffic was bumper to bumper, and frequently at a complete standstill.

There were NO CONSTRUCTION workers working at this time, and NO POLICE were assisting with traffic flow. This was a very dangerous situation. Why were there no police assisting with this traffic jam?

When we finally were able to turn left toward Lanikai, I could see that there were 2 police cars parked at the back part of the parking lot for Buzz’s Steakhouse. They were sitting there stationary, with their blue lights on. It would have been a simple thing for them to have driven a distance of about 2 football fields to assist with the traffic, but they did not help.

I am attaching photos of this traffic mess, taken from the inside of our car where I was the passenger.

I understand that this traffic triangle “improvement” work is scheduled to continue for another TWO years. This is absolutely untenable. What if an ambulance or fire truck needs to get into Lanikai during this time? This will surely happen in the next 2 years. What if a doctor living in Lanikai or Country Club Knolls is emergently called to the hospital during this time? This will surely happen in the next 2 years. This constant traffic jam was not only extremely inconvenient but it was dangerous and could have resulted in loss of life.

Now I have learned that the reason for this traffic mess was because DTS had to choose between keeping the project on time and on budget, and asking the contractor to change their plan which would have meant a change order. So they let the contractor run the detour the wrong way, and then switch the direction on their own accord in response to the gridlock created.

Even though the traffic problem of that night has since been solved by running traffic from Lanikai counterclockwise through Kailua Beach Park instead of clockwise, there is still the problem of part of Kailua Road being blocked off, and traffic being detoured through the adjacent quiet neighborhood.

Based on past performance, we have no confidence in the contractor to deal with future traffic issues in a manner that will provide safety for our community. Similarly, we do not have confidence that the police will intervene when traffic tie-ups occur due to the traffic triangle improvement, because 2 police cars sat by and watched the traffic jam on the night of January 5 and did not intervene.

In my opinion, there was nothing wrong with the previous traffic triangle as it was, and it does not need to be “improved”. The fact that money is being spent on this wasteful project suggests waste, fraud and abuse.

I plead with you to end this needless “improvement” of the traffic triangle. The triangle was fine the way it was. Improvement of the triangle is not necessary or wanted by the community. The only change that we can that has occurred is that some concrete curbs have been installed along an asphalt sidewalk that previously had no curbs.

Please do not throw good money after bad. Please stop this needless, wasteful, unwanted, and dangerous project now.

Sincerely,

Judy M. Vincent, MD

154 Pauahilani Pl.

Kailua, HI 96734

808-741-0671

