

LATE

HCR-43

Submitted on: 4/16/2026 11:50:50 AM

Testimony for TRS on 4/16/2026 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laura Ruby	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Crosswalks at those intersections are essential to the students and parents crossing to Ala Wai School. Currently there are many vehicles that speed and also roll through stop signs this measure would make those violators more vigilant and concerned for the safety of the community members. Laura Ruby Hihwai resident



LATE

Michelle DeBusca, Principal
Ala Wai Elementary School
503 Kamoku Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96826
Voice: 808-973-0070 Ext. 225 Fax: 808-973-0081
michelle.debusca@k12.hi.us

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante and Members,

I respectfully submit this testimony in strong support of installing raised crosswalks at the intersections of University Avenue & Hihiwai Street, Lauiki Street & Hihiwai Street, and Kamoku Street & Hihiwai Street.

There is frequent speeding on Hihiwai Street, which creates a hazardous environment for students walking to and from school. Two unmanned crosswalks on Hihiwai have had numerous near-miss incidents, including situations where adults have had to shout at drivers to stop as children approach the mid-block crosswalk. Drivers also tend to inch past the stop sign at Lauiki Street while turning onto Hihiwai, further increasing risk to pedestrians.

Parents have also raised concerns about the crosswalk connecting Hihiwai and University Avenue. One parent has video evidence of vehicles driving through the crosswalk without stopping before turning onto University, despite students being present. Given these conditions, there appears to be a strong case for a raised crosswalk or similar traffic-calming measure to slow vehicles and improve pedestrian safety in this school zone.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Testimony: HCR 43

TO: House Committee on Transportation

FROM: Michelle DeBusca, Principal

DATE: April 16, 2026

LATE

RE: SUPPORT for HCR 43 – Urging the Department of Transportation Services for the City and County of Honolulu to install raised crosswalks at the University Avenue, Lauiki Street, and Kamoku Street intersections with Hihawai Street to improve pedestrian safety near Ala Wai Elementary School and the surrounding community.

My Position

I am writing in **strong support** of HCR 43. As the principal of the Ala Wai Elementary School, I witness daily the hazardous conditions our students and families face while navigating the intersection of University Avenue, Lauiki Street, Hihawai Street, and Kamoku Street.

Why This Matters

- **High Student Volume:** Ala Wai Elementary serves **370 students**, the majority of whom walk to school from surrounding residential buildings.
- **Driver Negligence:** We frequently witness vehicles speeding through stop signs or performing "rolling stops" without checking for pedestrians. These are not just traffic violations; they are life-threatening risks.
- **Vulnerable Pedestrians:** While many children are escorted by adults, many older students walk alone. Navigating heavy peak-hour traffic at this specific intersection is currently a "gauntlet" rather than a safe commute.
- **History of Near Misses:** Our community has experienced multiple near-collisions. We should not have to wait for a tragedy to occur before we implement a proven safety solution.

The Solution

A **raised crosswalk** would completely remove our children from the path of unpredictable vehicle traffic. It is the most effective way to ensure that our "walking school bus" remains safe and that parents have peace of mind.

Closing

I urge the committee to pass HCR 43 to prioritize the lives of our keiki. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,


Michelle DeBusca

Ala Wai Elementary School

808-778-9039/michelle.debusca@k12.hi.us

LATE

HCR-43

Submitted on: 4/16/2026 12:29:32 PM
Testimony for TRS on 4/16/2026 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
F. Samis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante and members,

I respectfully submit this testimony in strong support of installing raised crosswalks at the intersections of University Avenue & Hihiwai Street, Lauiki Street & Hihiwai Street, and Kamoku Street & Hihiwai Street.

These intersections are located in a dense residential area with significant pedestrian activity and steady vehicle traffic for residents including school children, kūpuna, and families.

Ensuring safe crossings at these locations is essential to protecting the well-being of our community. Raised crosswalks are a proven and effective traffic-calming measure. By physically slowing vehicles, improving pedestrian visibility, and signaling the presence of crossings, raised crosswalks are especially well-suited for school zones and high-foot-traffic neighborhoods such as ours.

Their installation would significantly enhance safety for all users of the roadway. This proposal is also aligned with the City and County of Honolulu’s Vision Zero commitment to eliminate traffic fatalities and serious injuries through infrastructure improvements that prioritize pedestrian safety. In 2025 the McCully/Mo‘ili‘ili Neighborhood Board No. 8 unanimously passed a resolution calling for the City and County of Honolulu Department of Transportation Services to install raised crosswalks at all three intersections along Hihiwai Street.

As a 5 year resident of the neighborhood, dog walker, community gardener and avid walker I myself have personally almost been hit by vehicles at each of the intersections identified in this resolution during both day and night time in addition to witnessing weekly incidences of pedestrians nearly getting hit **daily**.

I urge the legislature and the city to take these preventative measures BEFORE a fatality and tragedy occurs.

Respectfully,