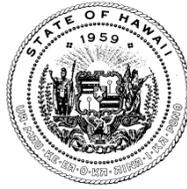


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | KA 'OIHANA ALAKAU
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ROBIN K. SHISHIDO

Thursday, February 12, 2026
8:30 AM
State Capitol, 430

HB1908
RELATING TO THE MAKAKILO DRIVE EXTENSION PROJECT

House Committee on Transportation

The Department of Transportation (DOT) opposes House Bill 1908, titled the "Makakilo Drive Infrastructure Acceleration and Sustainability Act." While the bill aims to expedite the Makakilo Drive Extension project, several provisions raise significant concerns regarding governance, fiscal responsibility, and the potential for reduced local input in critical infrastructure decisions.

First, Section 4(a) transfers primary authority, responsibility, and control over the planning, design, acquisition, construction, and completion of the Makakilo Drive Extension from the City and County of Honolulu to the State Department of Transportation. This transfer undermines the role of local government, which has intimate knowledge of community needs, zoning constraints, and regional infrastructure compatibility. The bill does not adequately address how this shift will affect ongoing municipal coordination efforts or public safety services, as noted in Section 4(d). Makakilo Drive is currently under the jurisdiction of the City and County of Honolulu and any extension should remain with the City and County of Honolulu. The extension has not been a priority for the City and County of Honolulu due to the construction costs which is estimated at over 100 million dollars and the low volume of users. The DOT would also consider this extension as a low priority for capacity increase, especially given the cost, at this time.

Second, while the bill emphasizes sustainability and environmental stewardship through Sections 6 and 7, the reliance on the Hawaii Green Infrastructure Special Fund raises questions about the allocation of resources and whether such funding aligns with broader state priorities. The bill authorizes the use of these funds for specific design elements without sufficient oversight or long-term accountability mechanisms.

The Department of Transportation and City and County of Honolulu executed a Memorandum of Understanding to identify the responsibilities, rights, privileges and immunities for entry, ingress and egress, and use of a path traversing through multiple properties, collectively referred to as the "Makakilo Emergency Access Route," during

periods of emergencies in order to protect and preserve safety, health, and welfare of the public and to accommodate emergency evacuations for emergency events that impact the City and County of Honolulu. The Makakilo Emergency Access Route connects Pueonani Street to Kualakai Parkway.

Additionally, the establishment of the Makakilo Drive Extension Task Force under Section 5 introduces a new layer of governance that may duplicate existing processes or create confusion among stakeholders. Although the task force is tasked with coordinating activities and submitting quarterly progress reports, there is no clear mechanism to ensure that these reports are actionable or that they result in meaningful improvements to project delivery.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition of this bill.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA LAWELAWE 'ŌHUA
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR
MEIA



J. ROGER MORTON
DIRECTOR
PO'O
HONGLONG LI, Ph.D., P.E.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
HOPE PO'O

TESTIMONY OF J. ROGER MORTON
DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Thursday, February 12, 2026

8:30 AM

State Capitol, 430

HB1908

RELATING TO THE MAKAKILO DRIVE EXTENSION PROJECT

The City and County of Honolulu offers these comments on House Bill 1908, titled the "Makakilo Drive Infrastructure Acceleration and Sustainability Act."

The City opposes the Bill as it seeks to bypass a long established and successful planning process for major transportation projects. The City and State jointly serve on the Policy Board of the Oahu MPO. The MPO has a technical staff and includes technical and citizen representation. The purpose of the Oahu MPO is to coordinate major transportation projects on Oahu. "The Makakilo Drive Extension is identified in the Long-Range O'ahu Regional Transportation Plan prepared by the O'ahu Metropolitan Planning Organization (O'ahu MPO). Federal regulations require this plan to be fiscally constrained, meaning that only projects with identified and reasonably available funding sources may be programmed for implementation.

At this time, the Makakilo Drive Extension is classified as an *illustrative project*, which indicates that no federal, state, or city funding has been identified. Projects of this scale typically require an approximately 80 percent federal funding share to be financially viable, and such funding is not currently available for this project.

Previous planning work identified some potential benefits of the Makakilo Drive Extension, including a second access road in the event of an emergency, improved travel times to the Freeway for certain users and enhanced access to transit. However, without a significant increase in available federal transportation funding, the project cannot advance beyond conceptual planning.

Separately, the City Department of Emergency Management is working collaboratively with Grace Pacific and other landowners to explore the development of an emergency access road that could be available for use during emergency situations. This effort is independent of the larger Makakilo Drive Extension project and is focused solely on emergency preparedness and access.

House Committee on Education
H.B. 2454, RELATING TO SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL
February 12, 2026
Page 2

The City will continue to monitor future federal funding opportunities and regional transportation priorities, but there are no current plans or funding commitments to advance the Makakilo Drive Extension.”

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition of this bill.

HB-1908

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 7:39:46 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/12/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mike Golojuch, Sr.	Palehua Townhouse Association	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our association has long supported the completion of Makakil Drive to Kualaka Parkway (formerly East-West Road) and we strongly support HB1908. The City and County of Honolulu has dragged its feet and changed the design from filling in the gulch to a bridge that required a new EA and design.

During the last Tsunami alert, the number of people going up the one-way in and out caused a traffic jam that took people well over an hour to get up the hill. There have been several accidents that have completely blocked people from getting out of Makakilo.

Please pass this bill. We need action before we have our own "Lahiana" situation.

Mike Golojuch, Sr. President, Palehua Townhouse Association

HB-1908

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 9:22:55 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/12/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John & Rita Shockley	Free Access Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

The Free Access Coalition strongly supports HB1908. Safe and free access to the H-1 Freeway has been promised but not delivered since 1981.

The Makakilo Drive Extension Project has been bounced around the City and County for years with no action taking place. It's time to have the State take over to get this job completed.

The danger of only having one egress from Makakilo is obvious. This second way off Makakilo for the 20,000+ residents is a project that should have been done years ago before inflation. Let's do it now!

Mahalo for your time.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT GOVERNOR



Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority

An Agency of the State of Hawaii

JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
CHAIR

GWEN S YAMAMOTO LAU
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Testimony of
Gwen Yamamoto Lau
Executive Director
Hawai'i Green Infrastructure Authority
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
Thursday, February 12, 2026, 8:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 430
in consideration of
House Bill No. 1908
RELATING TO THE MAKAKILO DRIVE EXTENSION PROJECT

Chair Kila, Vice Chair Miyake and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on HB1908 relating to the Makakilo Drive extension project, which proposes the use of the Hawaii green infrastructure special fund to support sustainable design elements of the Makakilo Drive Extension project.

While sustainable infrastructure practices such as stormwater capture, filtration systems and energy-efficient roadway lighting should be incorporated into roadway projects, HGIA opposes the use of the Hawaii green infrastructure special fund for said road infrastructure project and offers the following comments for consideration.

While administered by a state Agency and issued by the State, the Green Energy Market Securitization Bond, which capitalized the Hawaii green infrastructure special fund, are not state funds. The bond is an obligation of Hawaiian Electric ratepayers collected through the Green Infrastructure Fee. These funds were specifically established to advance the state's clean energy goals by financing renewable energy and energy-efficiency upgrades for underserved ratepayers. As ratepayer funds, the Hawaii Green Infrastructure special fund is also under the governance of the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission (PUC), with authorization to finance specific energy improvements, such as rooftop solar and energy efficiency retrofits. Further, Rate Schedule F (Public Street Lighting), is not an eligible rate schedule. As such, diverting these ratepayer funds to general road infrastructure projects, would conflict with the fund's statutory purpose of assisting underserved ratepayers lower their energy bills; as well as our obligation to the ratepayers who contribute to the fund; and is not in alignment with the PUC's approved uses for these funds.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and provide comments on HB1908.

HB-1908

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 9:49:35 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/12/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Golojuch Jr	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

Since we moved into Makakilo in 1981 we were promised a second access to Makakilo.

Here we are 45 years later and we still don't have the second access. We only have one way in and one way out.

During these decades we have seen our population expand. If there is a fire in lower Makakilo we are all trapped with no other way out.

Please pass House Bill 1908.

Mahalo,

Michael Golojuch, Jr. (he/him)

HB-1908

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 9:59:00 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/12/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carolyn M Golojuch	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My family has been taxpaying, voting members of District 43 Makakilo since 1981. When we bought our townhouse, we were promised that the Makakilo Extension would be completed. It seems that a Japanese development corporation had built a Golf Course with the signed contract that the Extension to H1 would be completed. This never happened! The company went bankrupted even though the Golf Club was finished!!!

The road to the Golf Club House was completed! My question today is why did the state allow the corporation to walk away without finishing the contract? This was a blatant violation of the contract and was not in the best interest of the residents.

Please bring justice for our people. Pass HB109 ASAP.

Thank you, Carolyn Martinez Golojuch, MSW

President/Founder Rainbow Family 808

HB-1908

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 12:14:53 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/12/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Madonna Dizon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong Support for HB 1908 – Makakilo Drive Extension Transfer to the State of Hawai‘i

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1908, which would transfer the responsibility for the Makakilo Drive Extension from the City and County of Honolulu to the State of Hawai‘i.

The failure to complete the Makakilo Drive Extension represents a serious and ongoing lapse in fiscal responsibility and public accountability by the City and County of Honolulu. This project was promised more than three decades ago. I am now 79 years old, and in one year I will be 80. For over thirty years, I have witnessed delay after delay, while funds previously allocated for this project have been sidelined or redirected to projects in wealthier communities that primarily serve tourism interests. HEWA!

Makakilo Drive Extension is not a luxury project. It is a critical public safety necessity for the entire Makakilo community. Our residents deserve safe, reliable access in and out of our community, especially in the event of emergencies, natural disasters, or evacuations. We should not have to wait for another tragedy, like what occurred in Maui, before taking meaningful action. That would be unacceptable.

The people of Makakilo matter. Our safety matters. Our community should not continue to be deprioritized in favor of tourist-centered development. I strongly urge that available federal infrastructure funds, including Biden Infrastructure funding allocated to Hawai‘i, be directed toward finally completing this long-promised project.

Transferring authority from the City and County of Honolulu to the State of Hawai‘i is a necessary step to ensure accountability, coordination, and completion. I respectfully urge you to pass HB 1908 and move this project forward without further delay.

I would like to see the Makakilo Drive Extension completed in my lifetime.

Respectfully submitted,

Kaleookamahina aka Madonna Dizon

HB-1908

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 2:27:40 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/12/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jimmy Lew	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB1910 to establish an emergency access route for Makakilo.

Makakilo currently has only one road in and out of the community. This creates a serious public safety concern, especially during emergencies. The recent tsunami warning highlighted how vulnerable residents are when evacuation depends on a single access point.

An additional emergency route would improve evacuation capacity, reduce congestion, and enhance overall community safety during natural disasters or other emergencies.

For these reasons, I urge your support of HB1910.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Jimmy Lew

HB-1908

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 3:39:26 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/12/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terry Welch	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I **support HB1908** Relating to The Makakilo Drive Extension Project which seeks to expedite the West Oahu road project by transferring authority from the City and County of Honolulu to the state Department of Transportation.

Traffic congestion and limited roadway access in West Oahu, particularly in the Makakilo region, have created persistent safety, mobility, and economic problems for residents.

This is particularly evident during evacuations of lower elevation areas in West Oahu, such as the most recent tsunami evacuation. **Thousands of residents create gridlock when they seek safety at the higher elevations of Makakilo.** The gridlock continues long after the "all-clear" signal is given.

Makakilo Drive Extension Project

Makakilo has only one entry/exit road...Makakilo Drive into Kapolei. The proposed Makakilo Drive Extension would provide a 2nd ingress and egress point from the top of Upper Makakilo to the H1 interchange at Kualaka'i Parkway...the road linking H1 (Exit 3) and Ka Makana Ali'i Mall which passes the University of Hawaii (West), the Kroc Center, and the new Hawaii Rail Transit (HART) base station. The length of this extension road would apparently be slightly less than 1 mile from the current top end of Makakilo Drive to the interchange at H1 Exit 3.

My primary concerns are the issues of safety and accessibility for not only my Makakilo Heights neighborhood, but the entire Makakilo community population of about 20,000. A single road in and out of Makakilo during emergencies, evacuations, or possible rescue efforts might impede our local Fire Station, medical, or other authorities. Additional benefits of extending Makakilo Drive include less congestion for commuters, an alternate route of travel, and actual savings in travel time plus decreased gasoline expense & consumption for Makakilo residents.

HB-1908

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 7:43:40 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/12/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frank Schultz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

The Free Access Coalition strongly supports HB1908. Safe and free access to the H-1 Freeway has been promised but not delivered since 1981.

The Makakilo Drive Extension Project has been bounced around the City and County for years with no action taking place. It's time to have the State take over to get this job completed. The danger of only having one egress from Makakilo is obvious. This second way off Makakilo for the 20,000+ residents is a project that should have been done years ago before inflation. Let's do it now!

HB-1908

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 9:19:21 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/12/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Larry Veray	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Although I am Chair for the Pearl City Neighborhood Board No. 21, I am strictly providing this testimony as an individual. Pearl City Pacific Palisades has the same problem as Makakilo residents, with one way in and out of their residential area with a single road. Funding was acquired in 2025 for design of an emergency egress route out of Palisades. The same needs to be accomplished for Makakilo residents.

I am in total support for HB1908 Related to emergency egress road for Makakilo residents. Approving this bill will lead to finding funding to design and construction. This will save thousands of lives in the case of a disaster in the area if a wild fire or hurricane.

HB-1908

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 2:06:17 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/12/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Monica J Medina	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a resident of Makakilo from 1986, when our addresses were Ewa Beach and Kapolei was just sugarcane fields, this testimony is in support of the Makakilo Drive Extension Project. The number of residents in Makakilo has swelled well beyond the capability of the infrastructure. There have been no substantial improvements and no extension after YEARS of pleading for it.

This extension project has been ignored and shelved for far too long and will have catastrophic consequences if there's ever a disaster in Makakilo. Please consider this a priority. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. We all learned that horrific lesson on Lahaina. Don't let history repeat itself and the consequences be on your hands.

Mahalo for your time and service.

Monica Medina

HB-1908

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 8:19:57 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/12/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
(Jackie Zahn) Helen Jacqueline	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the bill.