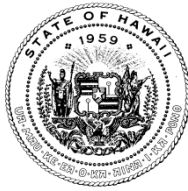


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
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Tuesday, March 31, 2026
10:00 am
State Capitol, 430

HR 64 / HCR70
RELATING TO MAKAKILO DRIVE EXTENSION TASK FORCE

House Committee on Transportation

The Department of Transportation (DOT) supports HR 64 and HCR 70, which urges the City and County of Honolulu to establish a Makakilo Drive Extension Task Force.

This resolution addresses critical transportation infrastructure needs in West Oahu, particularly in the Makakilo area, where traffic congestion and limited roadway access pose safety, mobility, and economic challenges. The proposed task force would improve interagency coordination, streamline planning and permitting processes, and ensure compliance with sustainability and transparency standards—key elements aligned with DOT's mission to support safe, efficient, and resilient transportation systems.

By including key stakeholders such as the Director of Transportation, the Honolulu City Managing Director, and representatives from planning, permitting, and sustainability offices, the task force will help resolve jurisdictional delays and promote environmentally responsible infrastructure development. The requirement for quarterly progress reports further ensures accountability and public trust in the project's execution.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HR-64

Submitted on: 3/27/2026 8:33:39 PM

Testimony for TRN on 3/31/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Our association supports HCR70 and its companion HR64.

Mike Golojuch, Sr., President

Palehua Townhouses Association

HR-64

Submitted on: 3/28/2026 6:43:50 AM

Testimony for TRN on 3/31/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anthony Langford	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Makakilo resident and home owner since 2007 I've seen the neighborhood nearly double in size with no change to the Makakilo access road. Based on census data Makakilo could be 30,000 residents by the year 2030. The one way in and one way out road access for the neighborhood is an obvious problem. In a worst case scenario, evacuation for fires or other natural disaster, the road infrastructure is inadequate for a safe and rapid escape for all residents. This is complicated by the need for emergency responders trying to enter the area to save lives. We've seen this happen in the Lahaina fire on Maui and the fires in the Pacific Palisades where residents had to get out of their cars and literally run for their lives. At a minimum there should be an emergency escape route on the east side of the neighborhood connected to H1.

HR-64

Submitted on: 3/28/2026 7:55:19 AM

Testimony for TRN on 3/31/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Support

70 HCR URGING THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO ESTABLISH A
MAKAKILO DRIVE EXTENSION TASK FORCE

HR-64

Submitted on: 3/28/2026 10:15:05 PM

Testimony for TRN on 3/31/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lani Wong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I respectfully submit this testimony in strong support of HR 64, urging the City and County of Honolulu to establish a Makakilo Drive Extension Task Force.

As a member of the West O‘ahu community, I have seen firsthand the growing challenges caused by traffic congestion and limited roadway access in Makakilo and the surrounding areas. Residents experience daily delays, limited route options, and heightened safety concerns—particularly during emergencies when response times can be significantly impacted. The long-discussed extension of Makakilo Drive represents a critical solution to improving connectivity and enhancing overall public safety.

HR 64 takes an important and practical step forward by calling for the creation of a dedicated task force. By bringing together key state and county agencies, this task force would help address longstanding coordination challenges that have contributed to delays in planning and implementation. A unified, collaborative approach is essential to moving this project forward in an efficient and transparent manner.

I also strongly support the resolution’s emphasis on sustainability and accountability. Ensuring that the Makakilo Drive extension incorporates environmentally responsible design and aligns with Hawai‘i’s climate resilience goals is essential. Additionally, the requirement for regular reporting will help foster public trust and ensure that progress is both measurable and transparent.

Finally, including West O‘ahu residents in the task force is a critical component of this effort. Community voices must be part of the conversation to ensure that the project reflects the needs and priorities of those most directly impacted.

For these reasons, I urge the House of Representatives to adopt HR 64 and encourage the City and County of Honolulu to take this important step toward improving infrastructure, safety, and quality of life for West O‘ahu residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide

HR-64

Submitted on: 3/29/2026 11:06:38 AM

Testimony for TRN on 3/31/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dr. Joseph T. Page Jr.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My primary concerns are the issues of safety and accessibility for 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. Foresight needed to avoid a tragedy.

HR-64

Submitted on: 3/29/2026 1:20:04 PM

Testimony for TRN on 3/31/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James Beasley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HR 64 / HCR 70

To: Chair of the Committee on Transportation and Committee on Finance

From: James Beasley, Makakilo Resident since 2003

Subject: Urgent Support for the Makakilo Drive Extension Task Force

Honorable Chair and Committee Members,

I am writing in **strong support** of **HR 64 / HCR 70**. When I moved to Makakilo in 2003, I was promised a secondary access road. In the 23 years since, I have watched thousands of homes rise on our hillside while our infrastructure has remained stagnant. We have reached a breaking point where convenience has been replaced by a genuine threat to public safety.

I respectfully urge the committee to pass these measures based on the following critical points:

- **Public Safety & The "Lahaina Lesson":** Makakilo remains a "one way in, one way out" community. We cannot wait for a wildfire or a major utility failure to realize that our current exit strategy is a death trap. A secondary route is not a luxury; it is a life-saving necessity for emergency evacuation.
- **Ending 30 Years of Bureaucratic Stagnation:** The "jurisdictional ping-pong" between the State DOT and the City must end. I strongly support the **Task Force** approach because it finally mandates interagency coordination. We need leaders in the room together, not pointing fingers at each other's budgets.
- **Mandatory Transparency:** For over two decades, residents have been kept in the dark. The requirement for **quarterly progress reports** is essential. We need a clear, public-facing timeline so the community can finally hold agencies accountable for the delays.
- **Restoring Quality of Life:** The daily bottlenecks at the H-1 interchange have become unsustainable. This extension is the only viable solution to relieve the gridlock that drains hours from our families' lives every single week. With More housing rapidly being built in the Kapolei area it is unsustainable. Please think not only about the current status but our future.

The time for "study" is over; the time for a coordinated mandate is now. I urge you to pass **HR 64 / HCR 70** to ensure the safety and future of West Oahu residents.

Mahalo,

James Beasley

92-112 Aweuweu Pl

Kapolei, HI 96707

HR-64

Submitted on: 3/29/2026 6:08:18 PM

Testimony for TRN on 3/31/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Barnes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I live in Makakilo and am a senior citizen. There are many advantages to the Kapolei/Makakilo region that would flow from the long proposed Makakilo Drive Extension but none greater than the life-saving route that the MDE would provide for the many thousands of citizens of the upper parts of Makakilo that otherwise would likely find no available way to flee should a fast advancing wildfire destroy our community. (The recent tsunami threat already proved this). Makakilo is designated as being high risk for wildfires. For relatively low cost due to short road length and work already done, another Lahaina tragedy might be avoided by building the MDE. Please find it in your hearts to provide for this community now, by establishing the task force, while there is still time. Mahalo

HR-64

Submitted on: 3/29/2026 6:26:09 PM

Testimony for TRN on 3/31/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sheila Medeiros	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Strong Support of H.R. No. 64

Chair and members of the Committee,

My name is Sheila Medeiros, a Kapolei resident in West Oahu. I strongly support H.R. No. 64.

Persistent traffic congestion and limited access in Makakilo create serious safety and mobility challenges. The Makakilo Drive extension is a critical project that would improve connectivity, reduce emergency response times, and support responsible growth.

A task force would streamline interagency coordination, promote sustainable design, and enhance public transparency.

I urge the City and County of Honolulu to establish the Makakilo Drive Extension Task Force with the Director of Transportation as co-chair.

Thank you. I strongly support H.R. No. 64.

Mahalo,

Sheila Medeiros
Kapolei, Hawaii

HR-64

Submitted on: 3/30/2026 1:24:00 PM

Testimony for TRN on 3/31/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diane Gibson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha - I live in Hoolu Landing towards the top of Makakilo. My neighborhood backs up to the ravine that runs parallel with Makakilo Parkway. If there is ever a fire in that ravine, our neighborhood will most likely be one of the first to catch fire. The fire department frequently comes to our neighborhood to make sure the ravine is not sparking when other field fires are sending embers on the wind our way. The Maui fires really opened everyone's eyes to what can happen when people need to get out of an area quickly and can't. We just saw this with the flooding and how late notice can put people's lives in danger. It is not enough now to say we will think about extending it and waiting another 10 or 15 years. This needs to be done now, as it was promised when the land was given for the extension. There are over 20,000 residents who need more than one two-lane road to get out of the area.

In addition to the safety issue, the daily backup of traffic is a concern. If you leave at the wrong time, the traffic backs up the mountain with everyone trying to get on the freeway. This causes frustration from people waiting, then those who try to cut in line, and those who can't get out of the side streets due to the backup. In the afternoon, the people coming off the freeway have to fight to get over if they are going west at the first light; those trying to go up the mountain get caught in the left-hand turn lane traffic and can be forced to sit through several lights. The amount of traffic has grown beyond the engineering capacity at the beginning of the parkway.

Those of us who call Makakilo home should not be made to feel that our safety is worth less than that of any other area on the island.

HR-64

Submitted on: 3/30/2026 1:57:57 PM

Testimony for TRN on 3/31/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie Bell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I live in Makakilo Cliffs, end of Panana Street. I'm Kupuna with big mobility issues. And I live alone.

it is very worrying that my only way off this secluded area is down Makakilo Drive.

I heartily support extending the other end to the H1. I think it is imperative to avoid future disaster in this heavily populated area, with lots of Kupuna and multi generational families.

Please pass this legislation as a matter of Urgency.

Mahalo

HR-64

Submitted on: 3/30/2026 2:03:52 PM

Testimony for TRN on 3/31/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard Dettloff	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a resident of Makakilo I support HR 64 in order to reduce traffic congestion on Makakilo drive as well as providing an emergency escape route.