

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

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TESTIMONY OF J. ROGER MORTON  
DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
**Wednesday, April 15, 2026, 10:05 AM**  
**Conference RM 430 and Via Videoconference**

TO: Rep. Darius K. Kila, Chair, Rep. Tyson K. Miyake, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee on Transportation

RE: OPPOSITION TO S.C.R. NO. 132, RELATING TO THE MAKAKILO DRIVE EXTENSION PROJECT

The City and County of Honolulu (City) respectfully offers the following comments on Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 132, which urges the City to take the necessary steps to finalize, prioritize, and materialize the Makakilo Drive Extension Project.

The City must respectfully oppose this resolution because it seeks to bypass the well-established regional transportation planning process used to evaluate and prioritize major transportation projects on O'ahu.

Major transportation investments on O'ahu are coordinated through the O'ahu Metropolitan Planning Organization (O'ahuMPO). The O'ahuMPO is governed by a Policy Board composed of legislators and transportation executives from both the City and the State, and is supported by professional technical staff as well as citizen representation. Its primary responsibility is to ensure that transportation projects are evaluated through a transparent and coordinated regional planning process.

The Makakilo Drive Extension is identified in the Long-Range O'ahu Regional Transportation Plan prepared by the O'ahuMPO. 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 present, the Makakilo Drive Extension is classified as an illustrative project, which means that no federal, state, or city funding has been identified for its development. Projects of this scale typically rely on a federal funding share of approximately 80 percent to be financially viable. At this time, no such funding source has been secured.

Previous planning efforts have identified potential benefits associated with the Makakilo Drive Extension, including providing a secondary access route for emergency situations, improving travel times to the H-1 Freeway for certain users, and enhancing access to transit. However, without a substantial increase in available transportation funding, the project cannot advance beyond conceptual planning.

Separately, the City's Department of Emergency Management is working collaboratively with Grace Pacific and other landowners to explore the potential development of a limited emergency access route that could be used during disaster or evacuation scenarios. This effort is independent of the larger Makakilo Drive Extension concept and is focused specifically on improving emergency preparedness and resilience.

The City will continue to monitor future federal funding opportunities and regional transportation priorities through the O'ahuMPO planning process. At this time, however, there are no identified funding commitments or implementation plans to advance the Makakilo Drive Extension.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to this resolution.

**SCR-132**

Submitted on: 4/13/2026 6:36:58 PM

Testimony for TRN on 4/15/2026 10:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha!

The Free Access Coalition strongly SUPPORTS SCR132. The completion of the Makakilo Drive to the H-1 Freeway is long overdue.

Besides the obvious safety issue of having a second egress from the Makakilo hill to the H-1 Freeway, the traffic congestion at the present junction of the Makakilo Drive to the H-1 Freeway as more and more neighborhoods are planned for the Kapolei area will be mitigated with the completion of the Makakilo Drive Completion project.

We urge you to help get the project completed.

Mahalo for your time and hopefully, your kokua!

**SCR-132**

Submitted on: 4/13/2026 7:06:53 PM

Testimony for TRN on 4/15/2026 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
steven hyer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this so we have a alternate exit for Makakilo before theirs a emergency not after the fact

Thank You concerned Makakilo resident

**SCR-132**

Submitted on: 4/13/2026 8:35:27 PM

Testimony for TRN on 4/15/2026 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mike Duarte	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose the creation of this Makakilo extension due to the fact that the citizens who live in Waianae have not yet been considered for a secondary route out. Not an emergency secondary route, a permanent secondary route out of Waianae. We have been here for a lot longer than the residents of upper Makakilo. But yet it looks as if our city council members only care about who puts the money in the coffers? More of the working class come from the Waianae coast as opposed to upper Makakilo so why is it there are never any appropriate discussions about a sensible and permanent secondary da route out. If they use the same coring drill rigs they are using for the rail, and the same precast pieces using Ulehawa stream would greatly reduce the effects of the construction process. Just a thought.

**SCR-132**

Submitted on: 4/13/2026 9:06:48 PM

Testimony for TRN on 4/15/2026 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
cynthia glenister	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As residents of Makakilo since 2006, we are increasingly frustrated by the lack of progress in finishing the Makakilo extension. When we purchased our home in Seascape, we were told the project was imminent and would relieve pressure from the singular entry and exit to our community and now we are still waiting for it to become a reality.

We strongly SUPPORT SCR132. The completion of the Makakilo Drive to the H-1 Freeway is long overdue. Our family members are challenged in coming up to our home from the Ewa plains when needed during tsunami alerts and we are similarly challenged from getting off the mountain if the situation requires us to evacuate in the event we have a major catastrophe.

Further the traffic congestion, especially in the morning and after work has been an increasing concern with notable major road accidents, with no alternative routes when they occur. Respectfully request completion of the Makakilo Drive Completion project as soon as possible.

Cindy and Lincoln Glenister

Makakilo HI

**SCR-132**

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 7:01:24 AM

Testimony for TRN on 4/15/2026 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Richard Dettloff	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I as a homeowner in Makakilo strongly support SCR132. The completion of the Makakilo Drive to the H-1 Freeway is long overdue.

Besides the obvious safety issue of having a second egress from the Makakilo hill to the H-1 Freeway, the traffic congestion at the present junction of the Makakilo Drive to the H-1 Freeway as more and more neighborhoods are planned for the Kapolei area will be mitigated with the completion of the Makakilo Drive Completion project.

I urge you to help get the project completed.

Mahalo

**SCR-132**

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 9:02:53 AM

Testimony for TRN on 4/15/2026 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Maxine Pickford	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Free Access Coalition strongly SUPPORTS SCR132. The completion of the Makakilo Drive to the H-1 Freeway is long overdue.

Besides the obvious safety issue of having a second egress from the Makakilo hill to the H-1 Freeway, the traffic congestion at the present junction of the Makakilo Drive to the H-1 Freeway as more and more neighborhoods are planned for the Kapolei area will be mitigated with the completion of the Makakilo Drive Completion project.

We urge you to help get the project completed.

Mahalo for your time and hopefully, your kokua!

**SCR-132**

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 12:30:26 PM

Testimony for TRN on 4/15/2026 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Joseph A. Bobich	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this long-overdue project. In the event of a catastrophe, 20,000 Makakilo residents would be trapped with no escape available, having only one road in and out.