

**HB 983 HD1**

**Date:** 03/23/2009

**Committee:** Senate Education and Housing  
Senate Transportation, International, and  
Intergovernmental Affairs

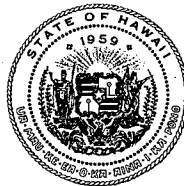
**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** HB 0983,HD1(HSCR909) RELATING TO EDUCATION.

**Purpose of Bill:** Requires the director of transportation to conduct a statewide pupil travel evaluation to study how students get to school and use the information obtained from the evaluation to provide Safe Routes to School program funds for school-based workshops and community-based planning projects that will reduce vehicular travel and congestion, encourage walking and bicycling, and promote health and safety. Requires the Director to develop a streamlined process for the federal Safe Routes to School grant program.  
(HB983 HD1)

**Department's Position:** The Department of Education defers to the Department of Transportation regarding this bill. The Department of Education is already working with the Department of Transportation to conduct pupil travel evaluations at select schools. The Department will continue to give its full support and cooperation to the Department of Transportation.



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

March 23, 2009

TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

HOUSE BILL NO. 983

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND HOUSING

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, INTERNATIONAL AND  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

House Bill No. 983 requires the director of transportation to conduct a statewide pupil travel evaluation to study how students get to school and to use that information to award federal grants for school-based workshops and community planning that will reduce traffic congestion, encourage walking and bicycling, and increase health and safety.

The Department of Transportation (DOT) understands the intent of this bill but believes the bill is unnecessary.

The DOT supports the bill's objective to improve bicycle and pedestrian safety for our school children and we are already working towards this end through many of our existing and new initiatives. However, the bill directly conflicts with the provisions of the federal Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program under the current federal authorization. Use of these SRTS funds for Hawaii is contingent on following the federal regulations and national criteria for this program.

We would not that the SRTS program is also not intended to reduce congestion around schools nor is it intended to improve safety of those commuting in cars or buses. For these reasons, these aspects are not eligible for SRTS funds. We have also discussed this bill with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and FHWA has indicated that the studies being requested by this initiative are not eligible for SRTS funds or any other FHWA funds.

In addition, any study of student commute patterns is most appropriately done by the Department of Education or the counties. Regional circulation or congestion within a small radius is not the mission or responsibility of the state Department of Transportation, but instead the responsibility of each respective county. Also, traffic calming devices are not appropriate on higher speed state highway facilities, but are more appropriate on surface streets in and around residential neighborhoods under the jurisdiction of the counties.



**PATH ~ PEOPLES ADVOCACY FOR TRAILS HAWAI'I**

PO Box 62 ♦ KAILUA-KONA, HAWAI'I 96745 ♦ 808 -329-9718 ♦ sharetheroad@pathhawaii.org

March 20, 2009

**Testimony in Support of HB983 HD1**

Senate Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

Senator J. Kalani English, Chair

Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Education and Housing

Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair

Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

State Capitol Room 225

Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> 1:40 PM

Dear Chair English, Sakamoto, Vice Chair Gabbard, Kidani and members of the joint Senate Committee:

PATH writes in strong support of HB983 HD1, related to education and safe routes to school. This bill will provide the necessary impetus to implement Safe Routes to School programs statewide.

HB983 HD1 will:

- Provide a collaborative forum between DOE, DOH and DOT to work through their shared challenges of school circulation
- Insure that the federal funds intended to address Safe Routes to School are spent in an equitable and efficient way
- Empower communities to take an active role in creating safe, active living environments.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Laura Dierenfield  
executive director

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**Mission**

To safely connect the people and places on Hawai'i Island with pathways and bikeways.

**Serving**

the Island of Hawai'i since 1986

**Web-site:**

[www.pathhawaii.org](http://www.pathhawaii.org)



March 20, 2009

## SUPPORT HB 983 HD 1

TO: Senator J. Kalani English, Chair  
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair  
Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair  
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

FR: Justin Fanslau, Spokesperson for the One Voice for Livable Islands

Senate Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
Senate Committee on Education and Housing  
State Capitol Room 225  
Monday March 23, 1:40 AM

Subject: **HB983, HD1, Relating to Education & Safe Routes to School**

Dear Senators English, Sakamoto & Members of the joint Senate Committee:

My name is Justin Fanslau and I represent the unified voice of the members of the One Voice for Livable Islands coalition. One Voice for a Livable Islands is a broad based coalition of organizations and individuals committed to ensuring that Hawai'i communities are designed and built as healthy communities. OV pursues its mission through public education, advocacy and community mobilization. **We stand in strong support of HB 983 and urge the committee to move this bill forward.**

Safe Routes to School was established under SAFETEA LIU in 2005. Since 2005, the One Voice for Livable Islands and our coalition partners have hosted and participated in Hawai'i specific meetings, workshops and presentations. We have also sent representatives to National Conferences and other States to learn more about how to implement this great program. Many of our organizations have even applied to receive some of the non-infrastructure money to improve community education and encouragement for safe routes to school. As a coalition, we are dedicated to ensuring that the Hawai'i Safe Routes to School program is one of the best.

Our State Department of Transportation has been charged with the implementation of this program and allocation of \$5 Million in federal funds (approx. \$1 M/year). The program

funds also allow for the hiring of a State Safe Routes to School Coordinator. The Coordinator's primary function is to work with community advocates, schools, and other related departments to introduce the program to schools and community partners and to find creative and innovative ways to utilize federal funding.

HB 983 gives legislative direction to the Department in the final year of the first authorization for these funds. This bill is vitally important to ensuring that we expend SR2S funds within the five (5) year authorization and demonstrate our willingness and ability to fulfill the intent of the federal funding law.

### **Federal Program**

The One Voice for Livable Islands just returned from a trip to Washington DC where we spoke to our congressional members on active transportation. Every member of our delegation asked us how SR2S was going. They all demonstrated their commitment to student/ child safety and the importance of improving our community health through innovative programs like SR2S. All committed to supporting continued funding of this program in the upcoming reauthorization of the transportation bill.

### **Our Coalition**

In 2005, the City and County of Honolulu passed Charter Amendment 8 by 77%. Our coalition worked hard to take the message of safer mobility options to the public and the public responded with an overwhelming voice of support. In the last few years we have been building our numbers and learning more about implementing complete streets in State Policy. We are committed to working with the Administration, the Legislature and every department to find creative ways to incorporate healthy mobility options into the way we do all of our business.

Thank you for your time and for looking at this issue with a careful and deliberate eye. We look forward to being your partner and urge your support of this bill today.

Aloha,

Justin Fanslau

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Justin Fanslau". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "F".

TO: Senator Kalani English, Chair  
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair  
Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair  
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committees on Transportation, International &  
Intergovernmental Affairs and Education & Housing

DATE: Sunday, March 22, 2009

FROM: Natalie Iwasa  
aka Bicycle Mom  
1331 Lunalilo Home Road  
Honolulu, HI 96825  
808-395-3233

HEARING: 1:40 p.m. Monday, March 23, 2009

SUBJECT: HB 983, HD1 - Relating to Education (Safe Routes to School)

Aloha Senators,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify **in support with amendment** of HB 983, HD1. For the past several years, I have been advocating for bicycle safety in Hawaii. I started the first, and as far as I know only, Bike and Walking School Buses on Oahu. Getting children to bike or walk to school is what the SR2S program is all about.

Last week I spoke to Margo Pedroso, Policy Manager for the Safe Routes to School National Partnership. Based on my conversation with her, I make the following suggestions to strengthen this bill.

Under SAFETEA - LU, at most 30% of the SR2S funds are allowed to be used for non-infrastructure-related activities such as public awareness and education. The remaining funds are required to be used for infrastructure. I therefore suggest this requirement be recognized in the bill. I also suggest clarification be made of the funding source for the student evaluations. After these changes are made, it is my understanding there is no need to include Section 5 in the bill.

SR2S is a great program which will result in many benefits to children and society in general. I urge you to support this bill with the suggested changes.