

William P. Kenoi
Mayor



Lincoln S.T. Ashida
Corporation Counsel

Katherine A. Garson
Assistant Corporation
Counsel

COUNTY OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL

101 Aupuni Street, Suite 325 • Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4262 • (808) 961-8251 • Fax (808) 961-8622

February 2, 2009

The Honorable Joseph Souki, Chair,
and Members
Committee on Transportation
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

LATE TESTIMONY

Dear Chair Souki and Members of the Committee:

Re: Testimony in Support to House Bill 983
Hearing: Monday, February 2, 2009, at 9:00 a.m., Conference Room 309

The County of Hawai'i ("County") Planning Department supports House Bill 983. The purpose of the bill is to make it safer for children to walk and bike to school and reduce traffic congestion around schools. The County received \$5 million as its share of the Safe Routes to School grant funding. Implementation of the program and distribution of the funds has been slow. There are currently \$3 million Safe Routes to School funds unused.

The bill directs the Department of Transportation Safe Routes to School coordinator to conduct a statewide student travel evaluation and to use that information to provide existing Safe Routes to School program funding to each school for school-based workshops and community planning. Amounts ranging from \$500 to \$1000 will be available for such community based planning efforts.

Passage of this bill is important because it can have a positive impact on traffic congestion around schools, reduce air pollution and fuel consumption, and most importantly, it can positively impact the health of children by allowing them to walk and bike to school. The issue of childhood obesity and lack of physical activity is very serious and passage of this bill is one of the ways we help solve this problem.

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The County respectfully thanks the Committee for the opportunity to present testimony on this matter.

Sincerely,



JOSEPH K. KAMELAMELA
Deputy Corporation Counsel
Litigation Supervisor
County of Hawai'i

JKK:fc

c via email only: Kevin Dayton, Executive Assistant
Daryn Arai, Acting Planning Director
Bobby Jean Leithead-Todd, Deputy Director of
Planning Department

awana3-Elenoa

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 02, 2009 7:20 AM
To: TRNtestimony
Cc: Brian@bcframe.com
Subject: Testimony for HB983 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony for TRN 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB983

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Brian Canevari
Organization: Individual
Address: 117C N. Kalaheo Ave. KAILUA, HI
Phone: 808-222-2377
E-mail: Brian@bcframe.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2009

Comments:

This bill outlines the first steps to the long journey of creating/ rehabilitating/ or minimally identifying, the safe routes for walking/ biking to schools and "anywhere" in communities.

The beneficiaries of this type of planning include not only the families attending the schools, but also the neighbors and businesses in the vicinity that are impacted by vehicular traffic generated by families trying to drop off/ pick up children at neighborhood schools.

The National Center for Safe Routes to School (NCSRTS) provides comprehensive tools and guides to accomplish the tasks outlined in this bill.

Volunteering my time to initiate the Safe Routes To School program at a nearby elementary school, the principal commented with surprise that the NCSRTS parent survey had above 30% return whereas typically they receive 10% returned surveys. When I asked for the perceived reason, the response was that the parents feel it is an interested and very important topic.

I would recommend the bill be amended to place a fixed contribution of \$1,500 per school that completes the surveys and planning process for a comprehensive SRTS program. The current wording providing a range of \$500-\$1,000 will raise questions and perhaps conflict as to who gets more or less contribution.

A comprehensive Safe Routes To School program involves the 5 E's: Evaluation; Education; Engineering; Enforcement; and Encouragement. Thus, this bill seeks to address the first step of evaluation.