



Get Fit Kauai

NPAC: Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition of Kauai

University of Hawaii at Manoa

A project of the Healthy Hawaii Initiative; State Department of Health

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Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

March 28, 2012

RE: Support of HB2626 HD2 SD1

DATE: Thursday, March 29, 2012

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 211

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Dear Senator Ige and Senator Kidani:

My name is Bev Brody and I am the Coordinator for the Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition of Kauai County (Get Fit Kauai). I am writing on behalf our 281 members to express our full support of HB2626_HD1_SD1. This bill (HB2626_HD1_SD1) is designed to improve the safety, health and mobility of children by creating and supporting a Hawaii Safe Routes to School program and fund.

This bill is critically important for advancing opportunities for safe physical activity and addressing the obesity epidemic here in Hawaii. Funds would be generated to support traffic safety improvements and education, through a modest surcharge on moving traffic violations. With the additional surcharge ranging only from \$10-25, depending on the location of the infraction, this provides a sustainable means for generating revenue for this need, without taking Hawaii general funds away from other needed programs.

We encourage all of you to pass this measure and its intent to create safer places for our children to bike and walk. If we make these changes for our children, we essential create communities where we can all be safer, healthier and live a better quality of life.

We respectfully ask for you to vote in favor of HB2626_HD1_SD1.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to Safe Routes to School and the health and safety for our keiki here in Hawaii.

Sincerely yours,

B Brody

Bev Brody

Get Fit Kauai Island Coordinator

NPAC: Nutrition & Physical Activity Coalition of Kauai County



SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

March 29, 2012, 9:00 A.M.

Room 211

(Testimony is 1 page long)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2626 HD 2 SD1

Chair Ige and members of the Ways and Means Committee:

The Blue Planet Foundation supports HB 2626 HD 2 SD1, a measure establishing the Safe Routes to School Program within the Department of Transportation funded through a surcharge for certain traffic violations. We believe passage of this measure will decrease reliance on automobiles for students commuting to and from schools.

Blue Planet Foundation's mission is to end the use of fossil fuels on Earth, starting by making Hawai'i a role model for energy independence. While much of our work has been focused on renewable energy and reducing electricity use, transportation in Hawaii (cars, trucks, ships, and planes) accounts for approximately two-thirds of the oil consumed. In 2011, Hawaii cars burned over 470 million gallons of gasoline. For a typical car, that's enough gasoline to cover the distance equivalent to over 21,000 round trips to the moon. Providing alternatives to driving cars is needed to decrease our consumption of gasoline and other fossil fuels. Better yet, showing children that walking and biking can be enjoyable can help establish healthy habits for life. This measure seeks to make the routes to schools safer so more students are able to choose walking and biking as a means of commuting.

In July 2005, Congress passed federal legislation that established a National Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program. The program, which was signed into law in August 2005, dedicates a total of \$612 million towards SRTS from 2005 to 2009. The Federal Highway Administration administers the Safe Routes to School program funds and provides guidance and regulations about SRTS programs. Federal SRTS funds are distributed to states based on student enrollment. Safe Routes to Schools funds can be used for both infrastructure projects and non-infrastructure activities. The legislation also requires each state to have a Safe Routes to School Coordinator, which HB 2626 HD 2 SD1 provides within the DOT, to serve as a central point of contact for the state. Hawaii stands to gain its fair share of SRTS funding through passage of this measure.

Blue Planet supports HB 2626 HD 2 SD1 as common sense legislation to help us make our roads safer, improve the health of our children, and decrease our reliance on fossil fuels.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

TO: Members of the Committee on Ways & Means

FROM: Natalie Iwasa aka Bike Mom
Member Hawaii SRTS Hui
League Cycling Instructor, #2244
808-395-3233

HEARING: 9 a.m. Thursday, March 29, 2012

SUBJECT: HB 2626, HD2, SD1 Safe Routes to School - **Support with One Change**

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony on HB 2626, HD2 which would create a permanent Safe Routes to School (SRTS) fund for Hawaii.

I support the creation of a state SRTS fund from surcharges on traffic fines and creation of dedicated coordinator positions at the county levels to continue implementation of this program.

The bill requires non-infrastructure funding be between 10% and 30% (page 3 lines 18 and 19). **Non-infrastructure funding should be increased** for the first year or two. Based on my experience and discussions with parents, teachers and community members, many people are still not even aware of SRTS. Education and encouragement, which fall under non-infrastructure, need additional support at this time.

It appears there is some flexibility under the rules-making process to allow for some up-front payment to grant recipients. This is important, because many nonprofit organizations cannot front costs of these projects. (For example, the Hawaii Bicycling League had to rescind its SRTS grant, because it could not front the costs.)

Lastly, I urge committee members to support the **Hawaii SRTS Day Challenge**. As schools register to participate in the challenge, legislators will be asked to join kids walking and biking to school on the fourth Wednesday of each month. May 15 has been set aside as a special Bike and Walk to School day. More information is available at www.pathhawaii.org/hui.