



Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

February 11, 2013, 10:00 A.M.
(Testimony is 2 pages long)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 736

Aloha Chair Yamane and Members of the Committee:

The Sierra Club, Hawaii Chapter, with over 10,000 dues paying members and supporters statewide, *supports* HB 736. This bill would require the construction of a shared-use pathway along Kahekili Highway.

The proposed project site is particularly vital as it is a highly-used connection point between Windward O'ahu and the North Shore. Bikeway funding is also an important investment in the health of both Hawaii's residents and environment.

Consider:

Safety. Honolulu unfortunately ranks high nationwide in pedestrian deaths. While there has been a decline in bicycle/pedestrian accidents nationwide, Hawai'i has witnessed an increase in our death rate from bicycle/pedestrian accidents. At 5.7 deaths per million of our population, our rate is over twice the national average. Worse, of our total traffic deaths, over 25% are cyclists and pedestrians, again about twice the national rate. Roughly 80% of car/bicycle accidents are the fault of the automobile operator.

Traffic Congestion. Some facts from Boulder Colorado, where a Transportation Management Plan that included enhanced bike/pedestrian facilities was implemented about 20 years ago. Both pedestrian trips and bike trips increased by over 10%, while car use diminished by 14% (growth in bus use accounts for the rest). Consider the potential in Honolulu, where our weather is conducive to outdoor activities year round. Many residents have indicated a desire to use bicycles for some part of their trip needs, if only there were safe facilities to do so. Despite lacking such facilities here in Honolulu, 5.7% of us walk or bike to work, 1.6 times the national average. Consider the untapped potential to economically reduce automobile use while still meeting transportation demand, if only safe facilities were available.

Public Health. One third of us are overweight or obese. This sad fact reflects, among other life style factors, the long-term consequences transportation decisions made in the past. We have not provided facilities for people to walk and ride bikes safely in our communities, where trips of 1/4 to 1/2 mile are entirely feasible on foot, and 3 mile or more on bicycles, if it were only perceived to be safe.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

ichiyama1 - Tate

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2013 8:46 PM
To: TRNtestimony
Cc: nedbusch@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB736 on Feb 11, 2013 10:00AM



HB736

Submitted on: 2/10/2013

Testimony for TRN on Feb 11, 2013 10:00AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
J. William Busch	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am writing in strong support for HB736. Although I am submitting this testimony as an individual, as President of the Kaneohe Business Group I have continually seen the need for bike and walking paths in the Kaneohe area. Such paths are instrumental to the health of our residents, as well as providing alternate means of transport that are desperately needed. In addition, bike and walking paths would vastly improve the quality of life of the area. I also believe it is imperative that a firm start date be stated for the development of the paths, and that the date is before the end of 2013. We are continually promised these paths, only to be told they are not a priority. It would be appreciated if the needs of Kaneohe were not once again relegated to the back burner. Mahalo.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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ichiyama1 - Tate

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2013 2:49 PM
To: TRNtestimony
Cc: teriloo76@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB736 on Feb 11, 2013 10:00



HB736

Submitted on: 2/10/2013

Testimony for TRN on Feb 11, 2013 10:00AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Clifford Loo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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KAHALUU NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 29

(He'eia Kea, 'Ahuimanu, Kahalu'u, Waihe'e, Ka'alaea, Waiahole, Waikane, Hakipu'u, Kualoa)

C/o Neighborhood Commission Office, Honolulu Hale, 530 South King Street, Room 406, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
PHONE (808) 768-3710 • FAX (808) 768-3711 • INTERNET: <http://www.honolulu.gov>

REPRESENTATIVE RYAN I. YAMANE, CHAIR
REPRESENTATIVE LINDA ICHIYAMA, VICE CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

TESTIMONY RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 736
RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION

February 11, 2013, 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 309

Good morning Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Ichiyama and members of the Committee:

My name is David Henkin, and I am the Chair of the Kahalu'u Neighborhood Board No. 29. I submit this testimony on behalf of the Board in strong support of House Bill 736, which would require the State Department of Transportation to plan, design and construct a shared-use (i.e., pedestrian and bicycle path) along Kahekili Highway in Kahalu'u.

This bill is vital to provide safe transportation alternatives for all members of our community. With this shared-use path our keiki could get safely to school – with the path serving both 'Ahuimanu and Kahalu'u Elementary Schools – and to sports and other activities at our community parks and sports fields. The path would allow kupuna and keiki alike to get safely to our shopping center, promoting our local businesses. In general, by providing transportation alternatives to travel by car, the path would reduce our often severe traffic and promote healthy lifestyles.

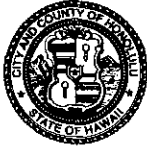
We have a unique opportunity to provide these community benefits both cheaply and quickly since the Department of Transportation already owns a 120-foot wide right-of-way along Kahekili Highway. The Department has confirmed that the right-of-way is wide enough to accommodate both the shared-use path and any possible highway widening envisioned for the future. As the attached photographs show, most of the land on the mauka side of Kahekili Highway is already graded flat and grassed. All that is needed is for the path to be planned and installed.

The attached resolutions, which the Kahalu'u Neighborhood Board adopted unanimously, reflect that building a shared-use path has strong support. A poll recently conducted by the Department of Transportation confirmed that the overwhelming majority of the residents of the area extending from Kane'ohe to Kahana favor building a shared-use path in Kahalu'u. The path would thus be a regional resource, improving the quality of life for much of the Windward side.

We note that HB 736 does not currently specify a date by which the Department of Transportation should begin construction of the shared-use path. We respectfully submit that, since the Department already owns the right-of-way and most of the route is already graded flat – one year from the bill's effective date – July 1, 2014 – should be more than adequate to start construction.

We respectfully urge you to pass HB 736. Thank you for the opportunity to offer this testimony.





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WHEREAS, in the 2006 election, the residents represented by the Kahalu'u Neighborhood Board No. 29 voted overwhelmingly (more than 75%) in favor of City Charter Amendment 8, which establishes a priority "to make Honolulu a pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly city;"

WHEREAS, the Kahalu'u Community Master Plan establishes as one of its four guiding principles to "[i]mprove circulation and increase transportation (bicycle and pedestrian)" and specifically calls for "a network of pedestrian and bicycle ways to connect the community's key places," including improvements to "the pedestrian/bicycle environment along Kamehameha Highway;"

WHEREAS, the Kahalu'u Community Master Plan expressly rejects the Bike Plan Hawai'i 2003's proposal for a signed shared road along both Kamehameha Highway and Kahekili Highway since it does not create adequate "separation between the bicyclists and pedestrians and the vehicular traffic on the highway" and instead urges alternate solutions including "a two-directional shared-use path located on the *mauka* side of the highway to accommodate both bicyclists and pedestrians;"

WHEREAS, the Ko'olaupoko Sustainable Communities Plan states that one of the planning principles is to "encourage ... pedestrian, and bicycle travel, particularly to reach neighborhood destinations such as schools, parks, and convenience stores;"

WHEREAS, there is currently no safe route for keiki and others in our community to ride their bicycles to Kahalu'u Regional Park, requiring families to use their cars;

WHEREAS, bicycling, running and walking are healthy activities that should be promoted;

WHEREAS, providing alternatives to transportation via automobile will help reduce our community's traffic problems; and

WHEREAS, the budget bill for the State Department of Transportation, Highways Division, for the fiscal year that begins on July 1, 2009, contains an appropriation of \$1.35 million of Highway Revenue Bonds for "design and construction for multi-use paths along Kahekili Highway from the intersection with Kamehameha Highway to the intersection with Haiku Road and along Kamehameha Highway from the intersection with Waihe'e Road to the intersection of Kahekili Highway;"

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kahalu'u Neighborhood Board No. 29 respectfully:

1. Urges the Governor of the State of Hawai'i promptly to release the budgeted funds for design and construction of the aforementioned multi-use paths; and
2. Encourages the State of Hawai'i Department of Transportation expeditiously to implement this important project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to: the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, the Director of the State of Hawai'i Department of Transportation, Councilmember Donovan Dela Cruz, the President of the Hawai'i Senate, Senator Clayton Hee, the Speaker of the Hawai'i House of Representatives, and Representative Jessica Wooley.





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"LET US NOT EVER HAVE AN UNHAPPY MINORITY; RATHER, LET US BUILD A COMMUNITY CONSENSUS."

RESOLUTION URGING HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
TO CONSTRUCT A SHARED-USE PATH ALONG KAHEKILI HIGHWAY

WHEREAS, a shared-use (bicycle and pedestrian) path along Kahekili Highway between East Hui 'Iwa Street and the Hygienic Store would improve the quality of life in the Kahalu'u community by providing:

- A safe route for our keiki to get to school and to the Kahalu'u Regional Park;
- Recreational opportunities that promote healthy lifestyles; and
- Options for residents to get around our community without having to add another car to traffic.

WHEREAS, the Hawaii'i Department of Transportation's existing right-of-way along Kahekili Highway between East Hui 'Iwa Street and the Hygienic Store is wide enough to accommodate both a shared-use path and any of the highway widening/contraflow options currently under consideration;

WHEREAS, the Hawaii'i Department of Transportation's Capital Improvement Budget for Fiscal Year 2011-2012 includes \$1.6 million for design and construction of shared-use paths along Kahekili Highway; and

WHEREAS, design and construction of a shared-use path could proceed expeditiously and would provide construction jobs during this period of economic recovery;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Kahalu'u Neighborhood Board No. 29 urges the Hawaii'i Department of Transportation promptly to undertake the design and construction of a shared-use path along Kahekili Highway between East Hui 'Iwa Street and the Hygienic Store.

Copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the Governor Neil Abercrombie, the State of Hawaii'i Department of Transportation, State Senator Clayton Hee, and State Representative Jessica Wooley.

The Kahalu'u Neighborhood Board adopted this resolution **unanimously** at its January 11, 2012 meeting.

