



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P.O. Box 3378  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

### HCR22 HD1, URGING THE FORMATION OF A TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS THAT INCLUDE HEALTH AS A PRIORITY IN LAND USE PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION DECISIONS

Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.  
Director of Health

April 10, 2013

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health (DOH) strongly supports this measure, with the  
2 recommended amendment to include the State Office of Planning as one of the members of the proposed  
3 Health Community Design Task Force.

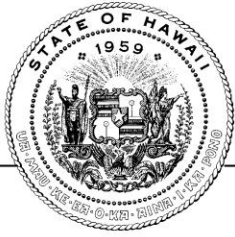
4 **Fiscal Implications:** The proposed task force would be staffed by existing personnel in the DOH.

5 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of the concurrent resolution is to establish a Healthy  
6 Community Design Task Force to develop legislative recommendations that integrate improving health  
7 as a priority in land use planning and transportation decisions. The task force would also identify and  
8 include government agencies that influence transportation and land use decisions and create goals and  
9 performance metrics that include but are not limited to health and obesity. These would be part of an  
10 overall action plan that will make recommendations on amendments to existing rules and regulations,  
11 resources and processes in place, and identify potential initiatives to implement.

12 The concurrent resolution is one of twelve recommendations that were offered by the report of  
13 the Childhood Obesity Prevention Task Force that was directed through Act 269 to develop and  
14 recommend legislation for the 2013 legislative session. The Childhood Obesity Prevention Task Force

1 recognized that over the last twenty years in Hawaii, the built environment has changed drastically, and  
2 that often, communities and roadways have been designed for automobile movement. Community  
3 planning decisions have been shown to also impact the access and availability of healthier food options.  
4 The obesity epidemic and other poor health outcomes include the unintended consequences of  
5 limitations placed on options for people to be physically active and for healthy food where they live,  
6 work and learn. The work of the Healthy Community Task Force will be a step towards intentionally  
7 designing built environments in Hawaii for people so all may have the equal opportunity for healthy  
8 years of extended life.

9 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



**OFFICE OF PLANNING  
STATE OF HAWAII**

**NEIL ABERCROMBIE**  
GOVERNOR

**JESSE K. SOUKI**  
DIRECTOR  
OFFICE OF PLANNING

235 South Beretania Street, 6th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Telephone: (808) 587-2846  
Fax: (808) 587-2824  
Web: <http://hawaii.gov/dbedt/op/>

Statement of  
**JESSE K. SOUKI**  
Director, Office of Planning  
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**  
Wednesday, April 10, 2013  
8:30 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

in consideration of  
**HCR 22 HD1**  
**REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE  
TO DEVELOP LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS THAT INCLUDE HEALTH AS  
A PRIORITY IN LAND USE PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION DECISIONS.**

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the House Committee on Health.

The State Office of Planning (SOP) supports the intent of the resolution to integrate improving health through land use planning and transportation decisions. However, the proposed task force is duplicative of existing statutory authority under Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 226, the Hawaii State Planning Act.

Land use decision-making processes of state agencies and all other regulatory and administrative decision-making processes of state agencies must be in conformance with the overall theme, goals, objectives, and policies, and utilize as guidelines the priority guidelines contained within the Hawaii State Plan<sup>1</sup>, **and the state functional plans.** See HRS §226-52(b)(2)(E). A functional plan must identify priority issues in a functional area (e.g., the health functional area) and contain objectives, policies, and implementing actions to address those priority issues. See HRS §226-55. The preparing agency (e.g., DOH) for each state functional

<sup>1</sup> HRS Chapter 226 sets forth the "Hawaii State Plan." See HRS §226-1.

plan must consider applicable federal laws, policies, or programs that impact upon the functional plan area. See HRS §226-52(a)(3). State functional plans must define, implement, and be in conformance with the overall theme, goals, objectives, policies, and priority guidelines contained within the Hawaii State Plan. Id.

State functional plans help coordinate land use at the state and county level. An updated DOH functional plan could include specific items related to how transportation and land use planning policies can promote public health. County general plans and development plans must be taken into consideration in the formulation and revision of state functional plans. Id. And, state functional plans must be taken into consideration in amending county general plans. See HRS §226-52(a)(4). County general/community/development plans are implemented through zoning and other land use policies. See HRS §46-4. At the state level, the Department of Transportation must consider DOH's functional plan in its decision-making. Also, the State's Land Use Commission and Board of Land and Natural Resources must consider DOH functional plans in their land use decision-making processes. See HRS §226-52(a)(5).

DOH's last functional plan was published in 1989. See Hawaii State Planning Act, SOP, at <http://hawaii.gov/dbedt/op/StatePlanningAct.htm> (last visited, April 5, 2013). Instead of creating a new task force, functional plans should be update to achieve the purpose of this resolution as prescribed under Part II or HRS Chapter 226 of the Hawaii State Planning Act entitled, "Planning Coordination and Implementation." The functional plan development process includes consultation with county, state, federal, and community partners with expertise in the functional area and a mechanism for implementing those outcomes. See Id.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



Testimony of  
GLENN M. OKIMOTO  
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors  
JADE BUTAY  
FORD N. FUCHIGAMI  
RANDY GRUNE  
JADINE URASAKI

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
(808) 586-2165

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

April 10, 2013  
8:30 a.m.  
State Capitol, Room 329

**H.C.R. 22, H.D. 1**  
**REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE**  
**TO DEVELOP LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS THAT INCLUDE HEALTH AS A**  
**PRIORITY IN LAND USE PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION DECISIONS**

House Committee on Health

---

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** the intent of this Concurrent Resolution by the Governor's Obesity Task Force which seeks DOT participation in the Healthy Community Design Task Force.

However, adding health as a consideration to land use planning is so open ended that it would be very difficult to correlate a clear nexus between obesity and health with the attributes of land use.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.





**HCR22 HD1**  
**REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE TO**  
**DEVELOP LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS THAT INCLUDE HEALTH AS A**  
**PRIORITY IN LAND USE PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION DECISIONS**  
House Committee on Health

April 10, 2013

8:30 a.m.

Room 329

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HCR22 HD1, which requests the department of health to establish a task force to develop and recommend legislation as it relates to land use planning and public health.

We particularly support a public health approach that aims to take a holistic and systemic view to address health in Hawai'i's communities. OHA's interest in this measure stems from one of our strategic priorities including Maui Ola (Health). This strategic priority represents our commitment to improve the conditions of Native Hawaiians and quality of life by reducing the onset of chronic diseases. OHA's Health Advocacy Initiative Core and Advisory Team are focusing its efforts on decreasing Native Hawaiian obesity rates in relation to Hawai'i's general population.

Land use has a direct impact on public health because it influences the development of housing and the natural and social environments in which people live. This is an opportunity to recommend state policy standards for parks, playgrounds, school buildings, sidewalks, housing developments and other community related developments. Many states on the continent have considered and implemented land use designs that provide their communities with safe routes to schools, bike paths, and complete neighborhoods where families can access their daily needs within short distances. Through thoughtful land use planning, we can also have open spaces and parks which would encourage recreational activities and improve air quality with more trees.

Therefore, OHA urges this committee to **PASS** HCR22 HD1. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.





## HAWAI'I PACIFIC HEALTH

55 Merchant Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813-4333

Kapi'olani • Pali Momi • Straub • Wilcox

808-535-7401  
www.hawaiipacifichealth.org

**Wednesday, April 10, 2013 – 8:30 am**  
**Conference Room 329**

### **The House Committee on Health**

To: Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair  
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

From: Virginia Pressler, MD, MBA

Re: **HCR 22, HD1 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS THAT INCLUDE HEALTH AS A PRIORITY IN LAND USE PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION DECISIONS**  
**Testimony in Strong Support**

---

My name is Virginia Pressler, MD, MBA, Executive Vice President and Chief Strategic Officer for Hawai'i Pacific Health (HPH). HPH is a nonprofit health care system and the state's largest health care provider anchored by its four nonprofit hospitals: Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children, Pali Momi Medical Center, Straub Clinic & Hospital and Wilcox Memorial Hospital on Kauai. HPH is committed to providing the highest quality medical care and service to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Region through its four affiliated hospitals, 49 outpatient clinics and service sites, more than 5,400 employees and 1,300 physicians on staff.

I am writing in strong support of HCR 22, HD1 which seeks the formation of a task force to develop legislative recommendations that include health as a priority in land use planning and transportation decisions. This resolution is a product of the work of the Childhood Obesity Prevention Task Force. The purpose of HCR 22 is to create a task force to work toward interdepartmental and interagency collaboration when developing policies that impact environmental factors that contribute to poor health and inequities.

Over the past two decades, the environments that affect opportunities for physical activity have changed drastically and obesity prevention initiatives need to focus on creating environments that provide opportunities for physical activity. Planning and design decisions in our community have a tremendous impact on a wide range of public health issues. Transportation and land-use policies are significant factors in the built environment that affect many facets of our community such as (a) rates of injury and death caused by traffic accidents; (b) ease and safety of physical activity; (c) greenhouse gas emissions; and (d) access to key community resources such as health care and healthy food. HCR 22 would provide the opportunity to develop recommendations that would potentially lead to healthier, safer environments and in the long run lead to healthier lifestyles.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



Affiliates of Hawai'i Pacific Health

Alyson Yanagihara, BSN Candidate University of Hawaii at Hilo  
1632 Kinoole St.  
Hilo, HI 96720

House Committee on Transportation

Hearing date: April 10, 2013 8:30 am

HCR 22, HD 1- REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ESTABLISH A TASK  
FORCE TO DEVELOP LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS THAT INCLUDE HEALTH  
AS A PRIORITY IN LAND USE PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION DECISIONS-  
SUPPORT

Dear Committee Members,

I am submitting testimony in strong support of HCR 22, HD 1. As a student nurse and member of the Hilo community, I am very familiar with the negative impact that obesity has on the health and long-term survival of individuals. After conducting my own research on the various motivators and barriers of college students when it comes to participating in regular physical activity, several individuals cited accessibility as one of the major barriers. With a large number of college students living in close proximity to campus, many elect to walk or bike to campus daily. However, due to the lack of proper infrastructure, such as proper sidewalks/walking paths, street lights, and bike lanes, this poses a huge threat to safety. In fact, this lack of infrastructure to ensure safety often deters community members from choosing walking or biking as a mode of transport.

Creating a task force to develop legislative recommendations that include health as a priority in land use and transportation decisions appears to address this issue head on. By considering health a priority when planning and developing infrastructure that is both safe and



conducive to an active lifestyle, more individuals will participate in physical activity, thereby having a positive impact on health outcomes.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Chelsea Craven, BSN Candidate University of Hawaii at Hilo

15-1487 Kukui St.

Keaau, HI 96749

House Committee on Transportation

Hearing date: April 10, 2013 8:30 am

Dear Committee Members,

I am submitting testimony in support of HCR 22, HD 1. Being a student nurse, I have seen the negative health effects of obesity firsthand. As of this semester, I also researched motivational factors in relation to physical activity, focusing majorly on the college population. For some individuals within this population, biking or walking to school is their means of transportation, sadly Hilo does not have the infrastructure, as of yet to support this burgeoning population.

This task force would be much welcomed by residents and students alike. Focusing on such a diverse and expansive health issue like obesity, is going to require a multi-faceted problem solving approach. I fully support the decisions to:

Develop legislative recommendations that included improved health as a priority in land use planning and transportation decisions, including, but not limited to, creating policies and funding for bicycle and pedestrian facilities on all appropriate streets, roads, and highways statewide and adding health as a consideration in land use planning policies and decisions.

As a local resident of Puna, I can assuredly say that having more sidewalks and streetlights would greatly increase the safety of the area, as well as motivate more individuals to become, and stay more active.

Thank you for your time, and the opportunity to submit a testimony.

Erinn Walsh, BSN Candidate University of Hawaii at Hilo  
1658 Kilauea Ave.  
Hilo, HI 96720

House Committee on Transportation

Hearing date: April 10, 2013 8:30 am

HCR 22, HD 1- REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE  
TO DEVELOP LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS THAT INCLUDE HEALTH AS A PRIORITY  
IN LAND USE PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION DECISIONS - SUPPORT

Dear Committee Members,

I am submitting testimony in strong support of HCR 22, HD 1. As a student nurse and member of the Hilo community, I am knowledgeable about the ongoing negative impact that obesity has on the health of individuals in the community. After conducting research on the motivations and barriers that factor into the pursuit of regular, physical activity by college students, I can testify that many individuals cite inaccessibility as being one of their major barriers. Fortunately, many college students live in close proximity to the campus and are able to walk or bike to campus on a daily basis. However, the lack of proper infrastructure, sidewalks or walking paths, streetlights, and bike lanes poses a large threat to safety. Indeed, the lack of safety-oriented infrastructure has deterred many community members from choosing walking and biking as modes of transport.

Creating a task force to develop legislative recommendations that include health and safety as the primary priorities in making proper land use and transportation decisions would benefit our community greatly. Promotion and implementation of these goals, more individuals will be able participate in physical activity and thereby will show a positive impact on health outcomes.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and encourage the consideration of health, safety, and well being for all individuals in the university community.

**morikawa2 - Shaun**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, April 08, 2013 3:10 AM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** dmelloj@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HCR22 on Apr 10, 2013 08:30AM\*

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**HCR22**

Submitted on: 4/8/2013

Testimony for HLT on Apr 10, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jared Dmello	Individual	Support	No

**Comments:**

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

To: Members of the Committee on Transportation

From: Lisa G. Pearring, BSN University of Hawaii at Hilo  
1055 Ahuna Road  
Hilo, HI 96720  
808-769-9171

Hearing: April 10, 2013 8:30 AM

Subject: HCR 22.HD1 Task Force Land Use Planning - SUPPORT

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

Mahalo for allowing me to provide testimony on HCR 22. HD1, which would establish a Health Community Design Task Force for land use and planning.

The ability to safely engage in healthy activities in one's own community is extremely important and necessary to an active lifestyle. Incorporating health facets into the design and planning of our communities will only positively impact our residents. Few current transportation routes offer alternative "healthy" modes of transportation. We need to increase our activity and lessen our dependence on imported fuels. The rate of childhood obesity in our state is growing. Let us actively work together to establish transportation routes that allow for safe bike lanes and walkways. Increases in short term cost of design and construction will be offset by decreases in long term healthcare costs. It is a win-win proposal.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

I strongly support resolution HCR 22.HD1