



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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In reply, please refer to:  
File:

## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

### HCR22, 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

March 25, 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.