

HB 736, HD2

Appropriates capital improvement project funds for the planning, design, and construction of a shared-use pathway along the mauka side of Kahekili Highway. Effective July 1, 2050. (HB736 HD2)

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



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

March 18, 2014
1.16 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 224

**H.B. 736, H.D. 2
RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION**

Senate Committee on Transportation and International Affairs

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports the intent with strong reservations** as we believe this bill is unnecessary.

According to the DOT's Statewide Bicycle Plan (Plan) and its priority list of bicycle projects Statewide, this area of Kahekili Highway is categorized as a Priority III. Based on the Plan's criteria and evaluation process, Priority III are facilities desired for construction beyond 20 years.

Furthermore, the DOT is currently re-evaluating the validity of the 1990 Final Environmental Impact Statement at the Kahekili and Likelike Highways Interchange, and along the Kahekili Highway corridor from Haiku Road to the Kamehameha Highway intersection. The DOT will be considering accommodations for all modes of transportation that includes a multi-use path along Kahekili Highway from the Haiku Road intersection to Kamehameha Highway near the Hygienic Store.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Testimony of
GLENN M. OKIMOTO
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
FORD N. FUCHIGAMI
RANDY GRUNE
AUDREY HIDANO
JADINE URASAKI

IN REPLY REFER TO:
(808) 586-2165



March 14, 2014

HB736HD2

Senate Transportation & International Affairs hearing March 18, 2014 at 1:16pm

Aloha Chair English, Vice-Chair Dela Cruz, and Members Espero, Gabbard, Kanahale, Keith-Agaran, Kouchi, Solomon and Slom

The Hawaii Bicycling League urges passage of HB736HD2 to build a shared bicycle and walking path on the mauka side of Kahekili Highway. All around the US and world people are demanding to be able to walk and bicycle safely in their communities. Is there any doubt this path would be used heavily? The path built in Laie is proof that if built, community members will use it for health, recreation and transport.

The City and County of Honolulu is working on more bike lanes, including protected bike lanes in Honolulu. Shared use paths are like protected bike lanes in rural areas.

By passing this bill you will be asking the state DOT to do what our citizens want and need. It has strong community support, and needs the Legislature's help.

In the Kahaluu/Ahuimanu area, the right of way is huge and allows this kind of facility. When it is built, people will use it. Now people have the choice of riding on narrow shoulders and disappearing bike lanes, and sometimes riding on the street itself alongside speeding cars. Some people even ride the wrong way against traffic, thinking this is safe because they can see oncoming traffic. This is extremely dangerous as drivers are not expecting to see a fairly fast-moving bicyclist moving toward them. If there ever is a collision between bicyclist and motor vehicle the result will be serious injury or death because the impact will be the cyclist speed (say, 15 mph) + the motorist speed (say, 40 mph) = 55 mph. Survival is unlikely at that impact speed. Let's do something to promote health and safety in Kahaluu!

Please support our first leader Kamehameha's vision: Everyone has the right to be safe on Hawaii's roads. Mamalahoe Kanawai, Kamehameha's Law of the Splintered Paddle 1797, Hawaii state constitution 1978.

Chad Taniguchi, executive director, Hawaii Bicycling League
chad@hbl.org cell 808 255 8271 office 808 735 5756 fax 808 735 7989 www.hb/.org



KAHALU'U NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 29

(He'eia Kea, 'Āhuimanu, Kahalu'u, Waihe'e, Ka'alaea, Waiāhole, Waikāne, Hakipu'u, Kualoa

c/o Neighborhood Commission Office, 530 South King Street, Room 406, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Phone (808) 768-3710 • Fax (808) 768-3711 • Internet: <http://www.honolulu.gov>

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

**RESOLUTION URGING HAWAI'I 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 Hawai'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 Hawai'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 Hawai'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.

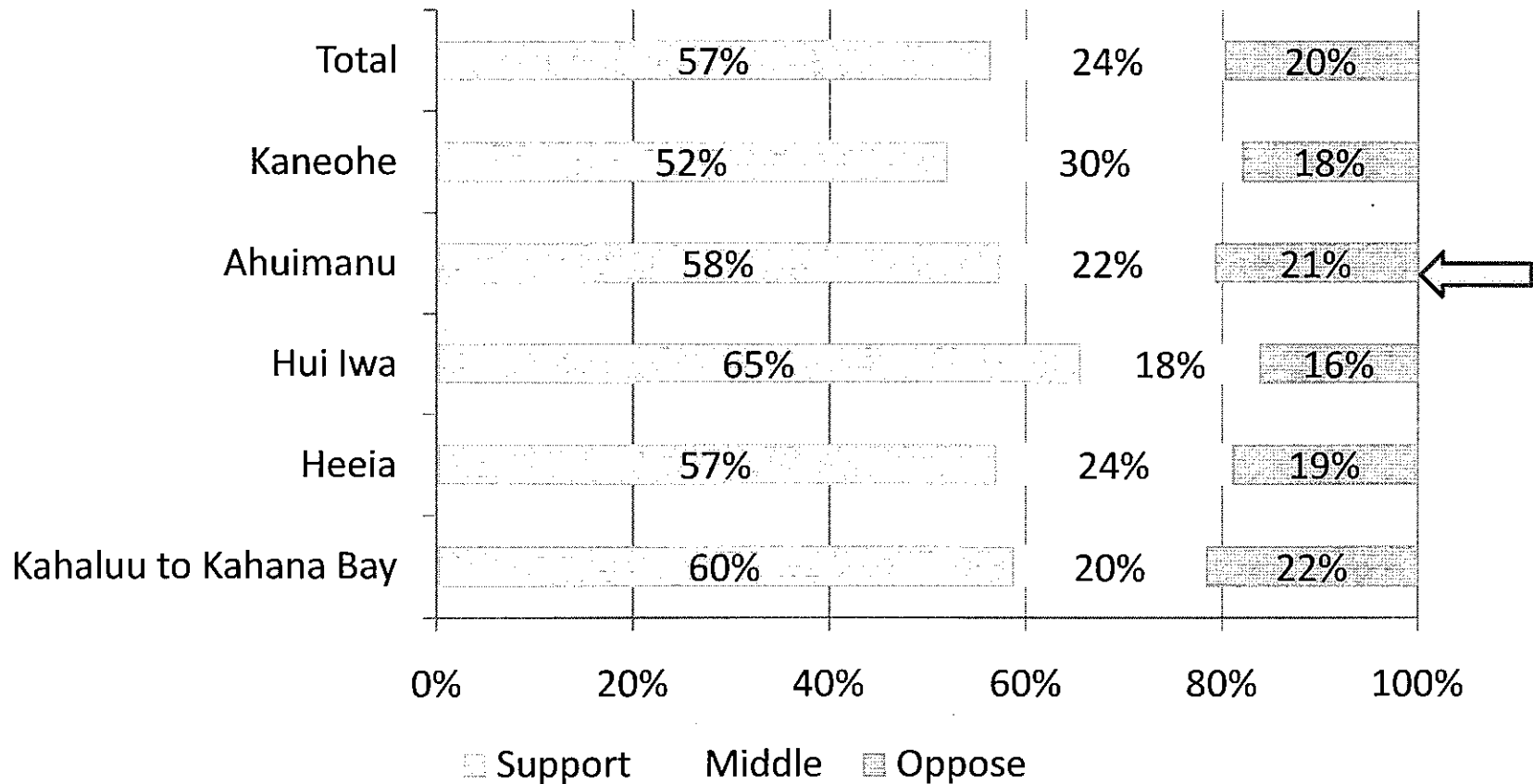
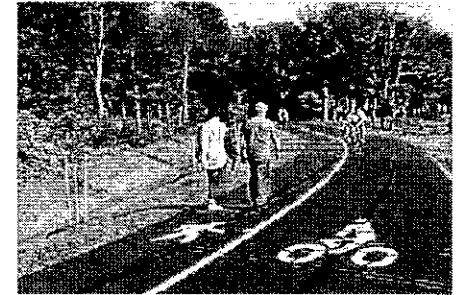
Copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the Governor Neil Abercrombie, the State of Hawai'i Department of Transportation, State Senator Clayton Hee, and State Representative Jessica Wooley.

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





Shared Bicycle /Pedestrian Path - Hui Iwa to Ahuimanu



Q6. Shared Use Bicycle and Pedestrian Path: Instead of just a bicycle path this proposal would install a shared use bicycle and pedestrian path that would run on the mauka side of Kahekili Highway between Hui Iwa West and Ahuimanu Place.





Re: Kahekili Highway Survey

Thursday, October 6, 2011 9:39 AM

From: "Darell.Young@hawaii.gov" <Darell.Young@hawaii.gov>
To: davidlhenkin@yahoo.com

Mr. Henkin,

Thank you for your interest in the survey. You are correct in regard to the DOT right of way being wide between East Hui Iwa and the Hygenic Store. The existing 120' right of way is sufficient for both a shared use path and a highway widening/contraflow. In addition, with the right of way available these alternative aren't mutually exclusive, ie. doing one would not preclude doing the other.

A charette have been tentatively planned for November 2 and 8, 2011, from 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm at the Windward Community College Hale Akoakoa Campus Center to get community input of the project purpose and need as well as the alternatives. I would encourage you participation if you want to find out more about the alternatives. If you have any additional questions or comments, feel free to contact me.

Darell Young
State of Hawaii
Department of Transportation
Highways Division, Planning Branch
Tel: 808-587-1835

David Henkin <davidlhenkin@yahoo.com>
10/05/2011 09:46 AM

To darell.young@hawaii.gov
cc
Subject Kahekili Highway Survey

Mr. Young,

Yesterday, I received in the mail the DOT's survey for Kahekili Highway, which lists the construction of a shared use path as an alternative to highway widening or contraflow.

My understanding is that, since the DOT right-of-way between E. Hui 'Iwa and the Hygienic Store is so wide, the construction of a shared use path would not preclude pursuing a highway widening or contraflow option as well. In other words, the shared use path and highway widening/contraflow are not mutually exclusive. Is this correct?

Thank you in advance for your assistance clarifying this matter.

Aloha, David

SENATOR J. KALANI ENGLISH, CHAIR
SENATOR DONAVAN M. DELA CRUZ, VICE-CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL NO. 736
RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION

March 18, 2014, 1:16 p.m.
Conference Room 224

Good afternoon Chair English, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and members of the Committee,

My name is David Henkin. I am a member of the Kahalu'u Neighborhood Board and the father of two children who have nowhere safe in our community to ride their bicycles. I appreciate this opportunity to testify in strong support of House Bill 736.

For years, the Kahalu'u community has tried to work with the State Department of Transportation to secure the construction of a pedestrian and bicycle path along the existing Kahekili Highway right-of-way, to no avail. As set forth in the attached, unanimous resolution of the Kahalu'u Neighborhood Board, our community strongly supports the construction of this path, which is desperately needed to provide our keiki and kupuna with safe routes to schools and businesses. Indeed, the Department of Transportation's own survey (also attached) concluded that over 80% of the people in our community support the construction of a shared-use path, with 57% expressing strong support.¹

Since the state already owns the right-of-way, the path could be built quickly and inexpensively. In past years, the Legislature has appropriated CIP funds for the construction of the path, but the Department of Transportation has refused to carry out the project. Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB 736 in the form it was originally introduced, which would require the Department finally to build the path.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

¹ The survey was worded in such a way that many respondents thought they had to make a choice between widening Kahekili Highway (which many in our community also support) and building the shared-use path. In fact, the Department of Transportation has confirmed that the right-of-way is wide enough to accommodate both the path and any widening that is currently being contemplated (see attached email from the Department). Had members of our community known that information when responding to the survey, the level of support for the path undoubtedly would have been even higher.

March 14, 2014

Dear Senate Transportation and International Affairs Committee Members,

I am writing in **strong support for HB736** and urge the Committee to revert to the original version of the bill, requiring the Hawai'i Department of Transportation to begin planning, designing and constructing the pedestrian/bicycle shared pathway along Kahekili Highway. The current bill provides the funding for the pathway, but does not require the DOT to take action and begin the necessary steps in preparation for the building of the pathway.

A shared-use pedestrian and bicycle pathway would improve the quality of life of Kahalu`u residents by helping to promote healthier lifestyles (exercise), a safer walking, jogging and bicycle riding path (paved and designated walking/riding area), and an alternative for community residents to get to nearby parks, schools, and convenience stores (fewer cars on the road).

IMPORTANT FACTS TO CONSIDER:

- There are currently no sidewalks in place on Kahekili Highway, so people walk, jog, or walk their pets on the shoulder strip.
- Since moving to Kahalu`u in 2010, there have been two pedestrian fatalities (June 2012 and November 2010) on the strip of Kahekili Highway, between the two points (East Hui Iwa street and Waihee road) of the proposed shared-use pathway.
- Following community input, the Kahalu`u Neighborhood Board unanimously adopted a resolution (January 11, 2012) urging the DOT to construct a shared-use pathway along Kahekili Highway.

There is a need for the shared-use pedestrian/bicycle pathway, reflected through overwhelming community support for the project. I respectfully urge you to pass HB736 in its original form, as submitted by Representative Jessica Wooley.

Respectfully,
Alice K. Holt Taum, PhD

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 8:20 AM
To: TIATestimony
Cc: nedbusch@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB736 on Mar 18, 2014 13:16PM

HB736

Submitted on: 3/14/2014

Testimony for TIA on Mar 18, 2014 13:16PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments: I would like to indicate firm support for HB 736. In addition, it needs to have the stipulation that DOT is required to proceed with the construction of the shared-use path. My understanding is that funds have been allocated before, but DOT has declined to do the construction. This is not tenable, and the bill needs to include a clause requiring DOT to proceed with construction. The shared-use path is instrumental in helping the community have a safe and effective means of getting around the community without needing a car. I feel it would be appropriate for the path to continue from the Hygenic Store to Haiku Road in Kaneohe, but East Hui Iwa St. is a start. This construction is also in the spirit of the state-wide push for further bike path accessibility. I appreciate the Committee's positive consideration of the needs of the Windward side. Signed - J. William Busch as a private individual, Board member and Past President - Kaneohe Business Group, Past Member Kahalu'u Neighborhood Board

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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