

SB 2488

Appropriates funds for the traffic signal capital improvement project at the intersection of Piilani highway and Kulanihakoi Street in Kihei, Maui.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



Testimony of
GLENN M. OKIMOTO
DIRECTOR

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

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

February 6, 2014
1:16 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 224

**S.B. 2488
RELATING TO TRAFFIC SAFETY**

Senate Committee on Transportation and International Affairs

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **opposes** S.B. 2488 as it is currently written. S.B. 2488 is unnecessary because the Department of Education (DOE), as part of their Land Use District Boundary amendment conditions for the proposed Kihei High School, shall install a traffic signal system when warranted at this intersection. Additionally, the DOE is required to update the traffic impact analysis report (TIAR), complete a pedestrian route study, and implement mitigation or improvements as recommended in the TIAR and pedestrian study to DOT's requirements.

The current TIAR recommends:

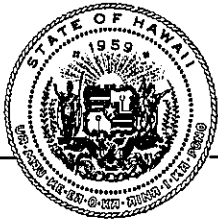
- Maintain sufficient sight distance for motorists to safely enter and exit all project roadways.
- Provide sufficient turning radii at all project roadways to avoid or minimize vehicle encroachments to oncoming traffic lanes.
- Provide an exclusive right-turn lane and shared left-turn and through lane on the access road approach from the highway school at the intersection with Piilani Highway.
- Provide a channelized northbound deceleration lane along Piilani Highway at the intersection with the access road for the high school.
- Provide a channelized northbound acceleration lane along Piilani Highway at the intersection with the access road for the high school.
- Provide an exclusive southbound left-turn lane along Piilani Highway at the intersection with the access road for the high school.
- Provide two eastbound departure lanes along the access road for the high school from the intersection with Piilani Highway.
- Modify the eastbound approach of Kulanihakoi Street at the intersection with Piilani Highway and the access road for the high school to provide an exclusive right-turn lane and a shared left-turn and through lane.
- Install a traffic signal system at the intersection of Piilani Highway with Kulanihakoi Street and the access road for the high school.

- Prepare a Traffic Management Plan for the high school to minimize the impact of school related vehicles on the surrounding roadways. This plan should address daily school and special events traffic.

The Land Use District Boundary amendment conditions for the proposed Kihei High School also require a grade separated pedestrian crossing for Pillani Highway. These improvements are to be completed by the DOE by the completion of Phase I of the high school.

The Land Use District Boundary amendment was approved by the State Land Use Commission on July 29, 2013. The DOE proposes to complete Phase I of the Kihei High School by 2018; in 2008 there was appropriated \$20 million for the planning, land acquisition, design and construction of the high school; and in 2013 there was appropriated \$130 million for the design and construction of Phase I of the high school. Phase II is estimated at \$30 million.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



**OFFICE OF PLANNING
STATE OF HAWAII**

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Statement of
JESSE K. SOUKI
Director, Office of Planning
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
Thursday, February 6, 2014
1:16 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

in consideration of
SB 2488
RELATING TO TRAFFIC SAFETY.

Chair English, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation and International Affairs.

The Office of Planning offers the following comment on Senate Bill 2488 which provides funding for traffic signal improvements at the intersection of Piilani Highway and Kulanihako Street that will be the entrance to the new Kihei High School.

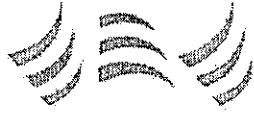
On July 29, 2013, the State Land Use Commission (LUC) approved the reclassification from the State Agricultural District to the Urban District of the 77.2-acre site for development of the new Kihei High School. One of the major issues discussed at the LUC hearings and in deliberations about conditions of approval was the issue of pedestrian safety. The State Department of Transportation expressed concerns about the conflicts between vehicles and pedestrians, and the overall safety of pedestrians crossing Piilani Highway, citing that vehicles on Piilani Highway often exceed the posted speed limit of 40 miles per hour.

The LUC concurred, and imposed the following condition on Petitioner Department of Education, Condition 1 (b) which provides, in part:

“Petitioner shall complete a pedestrian route study for Phase I of the Project which includes ingress and egress of pedestrians through defined location(s) approved by DOT and shall analyze compliance with the proposed warrants in FHWA/RD-84/082 (July 1984) to the satisfaction of DOT. The pedestrian route study and analysis shall be completed and approved prior to Petitioner executing a contract for the design of Phase I of the Project. Petitioner shall cause to be constructed, or ensure that there is an available above or below ground pedestrian crossing and implement such mitigation or improvements as may be required or recommended by the study and analysis to the satisfaction of DOT prior to opening Phase I of the Project.” (emphasis added)

We provide the above information for your consideration relative to the subject bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



PACIFIC RIM LAND, INC.

February 5, 2014

Senator J. Kalani English
Chair
Senate Committee on Transportation and International Affairs
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 205

RE: Testimony in Strong Support of Senate Bill 2488

Dear Chair English,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide strong testimony in support of Senate Bill 2488. As the Manager of the Maui Research & Technology Park, which is in close proximity to the intersection of Kulanihako'i Street and Piilani Highway, we are well aware of currently existing and future expected safety issues with this intersection.

Current conditions at the intersection are far from ideal, especially during peak hours. Motorists often pull out into oncoming traffic from the Kulanihako'i neighborhood, or from the two traffic storage lanes at the intersection. As is noted in the text of the bill, this often leads to serious accidents at the intersection.

Since our development is close by, we have been following the progress of the Kihei High School Project. We were very concerned when we learned that a fully signalized intersection was not planned for the access road from the new school at Piilani Highway. If the current configuration is kept once the new high school opens, it will only magnify the already unsafe conditions at the intersection.

I urge you to correct this oversight and allocate the funds requested in SB 2488 for fully signalizing this intersection.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Perkins', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Steve Perkins
Manager
Maui Research & Technology Park



February 5, 2014

The Honorable J. Kalani English
Chair
Senate Committee on Transportation and International Affairs

RE SB2488 RELATING TO TRAFFIC SAFETY

Dear Chair English,

We are writing to express our support about the referenced Senate bill.

The intersection of Piilani highway and Kulanihakoi Street in Kihei is a heavily trafficked intersection. This intersection has also seen numerous traffic accidents and near-accidents during the course of the last year. According to the Maui police department, between January 1, 2012, and December 31, 2013, there were six major crashes with injuries or property damage, or both, at this intersection. There were also five minor crashes, with no injuries and smaller property damage losses, during this time at this intersection.

The intersection of Piilani highway and Kulanihakoi Street will also be the entrance to the new Kihei high school, which is scheduled to open in 2018. Kihei is one of Maui's fastest growing communities and with the construction, development, and opening of Kihei high school, it is more important than ever to make traffic safety, bus safety, and pedestrian safety in this area a top priority.

Passage of SB2488 will ensure the traffic safety, bus safety, and pedestrian safety at this intersection. It will also prevent future congestion and ensure safety for all citizens in the future as this area continues to develop.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeanné Skog', is written over the typed name and title.

Jeanné Skog
President & CEO
Maui Economic Development Board

Building Pathways

2/4/2014

re: SB2488

Testimony in Support of SB2488

I support SB2488 to allocate funds for a stoplight intersection at Piilani Hwy. and Kulanihakoi St. to serve the new Kihei High School. It is imperative that a safe, pedestrian friendly stoplight be installed at this intersection. There will be hundreds of cars, busses and pedestrians that will need safe entrance and egress to the high school, from the Piilani Highway and Kulanihakoi St. Building a well engineered traffic signal and crosswalks at this location is a proactive effort to get safe access and required infrastructure built in the most expedient manner.

Thank you for your consideration,
James Andrew Beerer
Chair, Kihei High School Action Team

I support SB2488 to allocate funds for a stoplight intersection at Piilani Highway and Kulanihakoi St. to serve the new Kihei High School. As a parent with children currently ages 8 & 10 who live in Kihei and that will hopefully attend Kihei High School, I believe that it is imperative that a safe, pedestrian friendly stoplight be installed at this intersection. There will be hundreds of cars, busses and pedestrians that will need safe entrance and egress to the high school, from the Piilani Highway and Kulanihakoi St. Building a well engineered traffic signal and crosswalks at this location is a proactive effort to get safe access and required infrastructure built in the most expedient manner.

Mahalo for your time,
Chauncey Brown

Sharon Lum Ho

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 1:29 PM
To: TIATestimony
Cc: propellerheadsara@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2488 on Feb 6, 2014 13:16PM

SB2488

Submitted on: 2/5/2014

Testimony for TIA on Feb 6, 2014 13:16PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sara Augustine	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support SB2488 to allocate funds for a stoplight intersection at Piilani Hwy. and Kulanihakoī St. to serve the new Kihei High School. It is crucial that a safe, pedestrian friendly stoplight be installed at this intersection. There will be hundreds of cars, busses and pedestrians that will need a safe entrance and egress to the high school, from the Piilani Highway and Kulanihakoī St. Putting in a traffic signal and crosswalks at this location is a proactive effort to get safe access and required infrastructure built in the most expedient manner. This intersection is already dangerous even without the additional cars, busses and pedestrians that will impact this area. Something needs to be done to make this section of the highway safe for the residents of Kihei. Thank you, Sara Augustine

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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Sharon Lum Ho

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 10:01 AM
To: TIA Testimony
Cc: lfstevens@earthlink.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2488 on Feb 6, 2014 13:16PM

SB2488

Submitted on: 2/5/2014

Testimony for TIA on Feb 6, 2014 13:16PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Larry Stevens	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: The money should go for a roundabout instead of a traffic light. The highway is already dangerously cluttered with long left turn and entry lanes next to high speed traffic. Almost the entire mauka side of the highway is slated for large-scale development. It is time to rethink how to manage the rapidly increasing traffic on this "highway".

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Sharon Lum Ho

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 1:55 PM
To: TIATestimony
Cc: gbeerer@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2488 on Feb 6, 2014 13:16PM

SB2488

Submitted on: 2/5/2014
Testimony for TIA on Feb 6, 2014 13:16PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gage Beerer	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I support SB2488 to fund a stoplight at the intersection of Piilani Hwy and Kulanihakoi St. to serve the new Kihei High School. It is critical that there be safe passage across the highway for students, staff, parents and volunteers of the school. This is essential for our community and a proactive step in moving the high school forward. Thank you, Gage Beerer

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Sharon Lum Ho

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 11:08 AM
To: TIATestimony
Cc: ljbaiaawcc@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2488 on Feb 6, 2014 13:16PM
Attachments: Bill SB 2488 Testimony.pdf

SB2488

Submitted on: 2/5/2014

Testimony for TIA on Feb 6, 2014 13:16PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Linda Berry, AIA	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Please see attached Testimony File.

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February 5, 2014

Aloha Senator Baker,

I am writing to submit testimony regarding bill SB 2488 which would provide funding for a traffic light at the intersection of Kulanihako'i Street and Pi'ilani Highway.

Because my home is located on Kulanihako'i, I am pleased to learn that this dangerous intersection is being given attention prior to the high school being built.

However, installing a roundabout at this intersection (as recommended by Dan Burden to the DOE in December) rather than a traffic light would be preferable for reasons of (1)safety, (2) health and (3)convenience.

1. Statistics show that roundabouts are safer than traffic signals for both pedestrians and vehicular traffic. We should provide the safest intersection possible.
2. As you know, Kihei is working to become a walkable, bikeable community to reduce obesity and improve health. The safety of a roundabout will encourage students, staff and residents going to and from the high school to walk and bike rather than to drive, thus promoting health. This is in keeping with the Complete Streets policy recently adopted by the State and County of Maui.
3. The existing traffic lights on Pi'ilani are a nuisance because they increase considerably travel time on this short seven mile highway. Studies show that vehicular traffic will flow faster and more smoothly with a series of roundabouts than with a series of stop lights. Installing a roundabout here will be the first step to making Pi'ilani Highway a more pleasant road to travel for both residents and visitors.

Rather than install a traffic signal now and replace it with a roundabout at a later date, I would like to see this bill withdrawn and replaced with one calling for a roundabout at this location.

Aloha,
Linda Berry, AIA
4 Waikalani Hema Place
Kihei, Maui, Hawai'i 96753