

SCR68

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION TO MAXIMIZE THE USE
OF FEDERAL FUNDS UNDER THE SAFE
ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM.

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

March 24, 2014
1:15 pm
State Capitol, Room 414

S.C.R. 68 /S.R. 33

**REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO MAXIMIZE THE USE
OF FEDERAL FUNDS UNDER THE SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM**

Senate Committee(s) on Transportation and International Affairs & Education

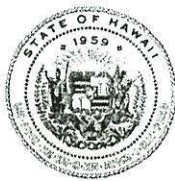
The Department of Transportation (DOT) **opposes** these resolutions.

The DOT currently manages the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program created by Section 1404 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) by awarding federal infrastructure and non-infrastructure grants to counties and other eligible recipients. This process continues under the current federal legislation, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) in allowing the DOT to facilitate and administer oversight to finance projects submitted by communities and schools that will most effectively enable and encourage students in grades K-8 to walk and bicycle to school, resulting in improved safety and reduced traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution in the vicinity of schools. The DOT is not eligible under federal law to use SRTS funds for projects.

Effective SRTS programs include encouragement, enforcement, education and evaluation, as well as engineering strategies. Therefore, we recommend schools, communities and other stakeholders put together comprehensive SRTS plans that include both infrastructure and non-infrastructure projects. These projects may be eligible to be funded with federal SRTS funds.

The DOT has existing programs and different federal fund authority that includes the planning, design and construction of multi-modal transportation in our capital improvement program. This includes pedestrian and bicycling modes.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



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

In reply, please refer to:
File:

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRS**

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

**SCR68, REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO
MAXIMIZE THE USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS UNDER THE SAFE ROUTES TO
SCHOOL PROGRAM.**

**Testimony of Linda Rosen, M.D., M.P.H.
Director of Health**

March 24, 2014

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health (DOH) respectfully submits comments on Senate
2 Concurrent Resolution 68 (SCR68).

3 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

4 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of SCR68 is to request the Department of Transportation to
5 utilize federal funds to supplement projects that are adjacent to schools to enable students to safely walk
6 and bike to and from school.

7 The Department offers comments on SCR68 because creating safer environments for walking
8 and bicycling around Hawaii schools supports both the health and safety of our children and community
9 members. The goal of Safe Routes to School programs are to encourage more children to walk and bike
10 to schools safely on an everyday basis. Safe Routes to School (SRTS) programs also create operational
11 and physical improvements to the infrastructure surrounding schools that reduce speeds and potential
12 conflicts with motor vehicle traffic, and establish safer and fully accessible crossings, walkways, trails

1 and bikeways. These improvements to the built environment increase safe opportunities for healthy
2 physical activity for everyone.

3 The statewide Hawaii Physical Activity and Nutrition Plan and the Hawaii Injury Prevention
4 Plan both support the implementation of Safe Routes to School in each county. Currently, the state
5 expends \$470 million a year on obesity-related, and \$770 million on diabetes-related medical costs. In
6 2012 13.2% of high public school students in Hawaii (2011, Youth Risk Behavior Survey) were obese
7 (2012, Behavioral Risk Factors Surveillance Study), and one out of five youth did not meet the National
8 Physical Activity Guidelines (2011, Youth Risk Behavior Survey). One-third (32%) of non fatal injuries
9 to pedestrians were in the 5-24 year age group and 26% of patients were in the 1-14 year age group
10 (HHIC, 2008-2012). Utilizing federal funds to enhance safety for walking and biking around schools
11 will help address the coordination, education, and infrastructure development needs to improve
12 pedestrian safety and provide supportive environments for physical activity around schools.

13 Creating healthy places makes physical activity the easy and desirable choice for our children
14 and families. The SRTS programs can create the environments conducive to walking and biking to
15 schools. According to the school year 2011-2012 Safety and Wellness Survey, only 14% (31) of public
16 schools reported having a SRTS program. The Department offers its support and assistance to the
17 Department of Transportation for the implementation and utilization of funding for Safe Routes to
18 School programs in our state.

19 Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.



55 Merchant Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813-4333

HAWAI'I PACIFIC HEALTH
Kapi'olani • Pali Momi • Straub • Wilcox

808-535-7401
www.hawaiipacifichealth.org

Monday, March 24, 2014 – 1:15 pm
Conference Room 414

The Senate Committee on Transportation and International Affairs

To: Senator Kalani English, Chair
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

The Senate Committee on Education

To: Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

From: Virginia Pressler, MD, MBA
Hawai'i Pacific Health

Re: **SCR 68 and SR 33, Requesting the Department of Transportation to
Maximize the Use of Federal Funds Under the Safe Routes to School Program**

Testimony in Support

My name is Virginia Pressler, MD, MBA. I am the Executive Vice President and Chief Strategic Officer for Hawai'i Pacific Health. Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system, and the state's largest health care provider and non-government employer. It is committed to providing the highest quality medical care and service to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Region through its four hospitals, more than 50 outpatient clinics and service sites, and over 1,600 affiliated physicians. Hawai'i Pacific Health's hospitals are Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children, Pali Momi Medical Center, Straub Clinic & Hospital and Wilcox Memorial Hospital.

We support SCR 68 and SR 33. The Safe Routes to School Program objective is to promote walking and bicycling to and from school, thereby encouraging elementary and middle school aged children to be physically active. This in turn helps to prevent childhood obesity. Current data indicates that childhood obesity is on the rise. Approximately 1 in 3 children entering kindergarten in Hawai'i are overweight or obese. Additionally, 23% of Hawai'i adults are obese and another 34% are overweight.

Safe Routes to School Program activities remain eligible for funding through the state Department of Transportation which administers the program. By maximizing the use of these federal funds to plan, design and construct projects that will substantially improve the ability to walk and bicycle to school, we will increase the opportunities for children to engage in physical activity.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 20, 2014 4:13 PM
To: TIATestimony
Cc: ThomasNoyes@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR68 on Mar 24, 2014 13:15PM

SCR68

Submitted on: 3/20/2014

Testimony for TIA/EDU on Mar 24, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Tommy Noyes | Kauai Path, Inc. | Support | No |

Comments: Aloha, kindly accept this testimony in favor of Senate Concurrent Resolution 68. The funds entrusted to the Hawaii State Department of transportation to safeguard and encourage our school children to walk and bicycle in the vicinity of their schools should be used for the intended purposes with alacrity. Respectfully submitted by Tommy Noyes, Secretary, Kauai Path, Inc.

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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March 21, 2014

TO: Committee on Transportation and International Affairs
Committee on Education

FROM: Naomi S. Sugihara

SUBJ: SCR 68 AND SR 33 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION TO MAXIMIZE THE USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS
UNDER THE SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of SCR 68 and SR 33 requesting the State Dept. of Transportation to maximize the use of Federal funds earmarked for the Safe Routes to School program.

Here on Kauai, the SRTS program is active and successful, enabling students, parents, and other individuals to walk and bike to school, especially during its monthly Walk to School Day. The initiative provides an opportunity for students to be physically active and safely walk or bike to school with a safe, designated route. The Federal funds are needed to support the infrastructure and improvements that must be made to provide safe routes on our island. These improvements not only help our youth, but the community benefits as well to participate in safe, healthy activities and maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Thank you for your favorable consideration.

Naomi S. Sugihara

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 21, 2014 9:11 AM
To: TIATestimony
Cc: bbrody1@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SCR68 on Mar 24, 2014 13:15PM*

SCR68

Submitted on: 3/21/2014

Testimony for TIA/EDU on Mar 24, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Bev Brody | 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.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 21, 2014 11:05 AM
To: TIATestimony
Cc: missyhoesel2@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SCR68 on Mar 24, 2014 13:15PM*

SCR68

Submitted on: 3/21/2014

Testimony for TIA/EDU on Mar 24, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Missy Hoesel | 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.

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