

SR33

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

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



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

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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.



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HAWAII PACIFIC HEALTH
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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.



Affiliates of Hawai'i Pacific Health

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 9:12 AM
To: TIATestimony
Cc: bbrody1@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SR33 on Mar 24, 2014 13:15PM*

SR33

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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