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Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Thursday, April 21, 2016

Regarding HCR169 Requesting the Department of Transportation to Begin Construction on
the Leeward Bikeway Before the End of 2016

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and esteemed members of Committee on Ways and
Means,

Hawaii Bicycling League **strongly supports HCR169** requesting that the DOT begin
construction on the Leeward Bikeway in 2016.

The Leeward Bikeway has been promised since 1980, 36 years ago. Funding was made
available in 1995, 21 years ago. People from Nanakuli, Kapolei, Ewa, and Waipahu are waiting
for this off-road multi-use path to be built as an alternative way to get to work, exercise, and
recreate.

The Hawaii Bicycling League has made starting construction on the Leeward Bikeway in 2016
our priority project. We are committing our time and asking others in the community to
make it their priority also. Our members have a target to raise \$60,000 in private donations
to hire community outreach staff to inform Leeward Oahu residents and community
organizations about the project's status and gain community support for this important
project that will enable people to save money, get exercise, and fight global warming while
going to work instead of being stuck in traffic, wasting time and gas. This multi-use path will
complement the rail system and enable more people non-motorized access to rail stations.

At the HCR169 hearing before the Senate Committee on Transportation and Energy, DOT
testified that the estimated construction start is late 2017. The project does indeed have some
last hurdles to clear, most significantly the National Historic Preservation Act Section 106
requirements that are already underway. However, based on our involvement in the project,
including in the Section 106 process, we believe that if the remaining items are expedited that
construction can begin significantly earlier than the 2017 date.

We urge the Senate Ways and Means Committee to pass this resolution and send a strong
message that all Oahu wants this multi-use path built now and that DOT should do
everything they can to expedite the project.

Thank you very much for considering the comments of the Hawaii Bicycling League. If you
have any questions or would like to discuss further, please contact Chad Taniguchi (808-735-
5756, chad@hbl.org) or Daniel Alexander (808-275-6717, daniel@hbl.org).

Ride and Drive Aloha,

Chad Taniguchi, Executive Director

Daniel Alexander, Advocacy Director



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The Trust For Public Land's Testimony In Support of HR 119 & HCR 169
Requesting the Department of Transportation to Begin
Construction on the Leeward Bikeway in 2016
Senate Ways & Means Committee, Conf. Room 211
Thursday, April 21, 2016, 9:00 a.m.

Aloha e Chair Tokuda and Committee Members:

The Trust for Public Land strongly supports HC 199/HCR 169 requesting the Department of Transportation to Begin Construction on the Leeward Bikeway in 2016.

The Trust for Public Land is working with the Blue Planet Foundation, the National Park Service, the Hawai'i Community Development Authority, and other community organizations to implement the over 80 year vision of connecting Diamond Head (Le'ahi) to West O'ahu via a multi-use waterfront path (also known as the Lei of Green or Lei of Parks concept). Different portions of the path are in different stages of planning and development. The Leeward Bike Path is a critical portion of the overall, connected vision of a South Shore waterfront multi-use path that would provide tremendous recreation, fitness, health, transportation, art/culture, beautification, and community building opportunities along the path.

The Leeward Bike Path was planned and promised to the West O'ahu community in 1980 – 36 years ago. Funding is available for the construction of the path, and has been since 1995 – over 20 years ago. This path could a tremendous asset to the community for recreation, exercise, and an alternative transportation method for getting to work or going to school.

The State Outdoor Recreation Plan (2015) surveyed thousands of people in the State regarding their recreation needs – respondents to the survey reported using walking paths, tracks or sidewalks most frequently, and emphasized the need for more bike and pedestrian paths. We urge the Senate to send a strong message to DOT to spend previously appropriated funds (including federal funds) allocated for this project and fulfill the vision of the Leeward Bike Path, a key element and connector for West O'ahu to what many groups hope will be a larger connected South Shore Multi-Use Path or Lei of Green/Lei of Parks.

Me ke aloha,


Lea Hong
Hawai'i State Director
Edmund C. Olson Trust Fellow



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HCR169 on Apr 21, 2016 09:00AM*
Date: Tuesday, April 19, 2016 4:33:24 PM

HCR169

Submitted on: 4/19/2016

Testimony for WAM on Apr 21, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	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
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: makikirandy@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR169 on Apr 21, 2016 09:00AM
Date: Wednesday, April 20, 2016 1:40:58 PM

HCR169

Submitted on: 4/20/2016

Testimony for WAM on Apr 21, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randy Ching	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Chair Tokuda and members of the committee, Please pass HCR169. The bicycling community and Leeward residents have been waiting 36 years for this multi-use path. Let's make it a reality. Give the State DOT the encouragement it needs.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: tabraham08@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HCR169 on Apr 21, 2016 09:00AM*
Date: Wednesday, April 20, 2016 7:30:09 AM

HCR169

Submitted on: 4/20/2016

Testimony for WAM on Apr 21, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Troy Abraham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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As a resident of the Leeward Coast for more than 20 years I encourage you to support HCR169 to start construction on the Leeward Bikeway.

I have ridden the Pearl Harbor Bike path in the past and would love to do so from my home in Kapolei on a regular basis along a safe pathway vs trying to share the road with cars and trucks and putting myself at risk. This project has been stalled too long and it's time to demand that this project be completed.

Providing safe routes for residents to bike can have a positive impact on our communities over all well-being and reconnect individuals to their parks and communities. The Leeward bike path will provide transportation alternatives for a wide range of individuals on the Leeward Coast and may encourage more people to commute by bicycle. It will also provide children and adults' alike safe routes for day to day activities, reducing the demands on our overcrowded roads. It would also provide another option to evacuate individuals in the case of emergency.

Let's stop talking about this project and get started!

Sincerely,

Scott Stensrud
Kapolei resident for 20 years
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