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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
Wednesday, March 21, 2018 — 9:45 a.m. — Room 423

Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports HR 189, Urging the State Department of Transportation and County Departments of Transportation to Seek Greater Federal Funding for Constructing Bike and Pedestrian Paths and Improving Currently Available Bike and Pedestrian Path Infrastructure

Dear Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Quinlan, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Murray Clay and I am Managing Partner of the Ulupono Initiative, a Hawai'i-based impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life for the people of Hawai'i by working toward solutions that create more locally produced food; increase affordable, clean, renewable energy; and better management of waste and fresh water. Ulupono believes that self-sufficiency is essential to our future prosperity and will help shape a future where economic progress and mission-focused impact can work hand in hand.

Ulupono strongly supports HR 189, which urges the State and county Departments of Transportation to seek greater federal funding for constructing bike and pedestrian paths.

Ground transportation represents approximately 25 percent of Hawai'i's energy consumption, and automobiles are the primary mode of transportation for residents and visitors. To reduce imported fossil fuel use in Hawai'i, we need to encourage the use of alternative modes of transportation such as bicycling. Ensuring the roadways accommodate all modes of transportation, by adding protected bike lanes and other complete streets concepts, unlocks the many benefits of multimodal transportation. These benefits include healthier and active communities, alleviated congestion, reduced demand for parking, and lower household transportation costs.

On average, transportation costs are the second largest household cost only behind housing. Thus, enabling significantly cheaper modes of transport can have a major impact on the livelihood of those living on Oahu, particularly given the high cost of housing and living in Hawai'i. Protected bikeways help unlock this value, so it is much more than just improving our clean, healthy, affordable, alternative transportation options, it can be an economic driver across the community.

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



Currently, all of the islands lack sufficient bicycling infrastructure. Connected paths for bikers allow for safe, efficient, and accessible travel, which greatly facilitates increased ridership. As more dedicated bicycle lanes are installed, ridership will increase, and bicycling will become more commonplace. Furthermore, making Hawai'i more bike friendly aligns with the state's 100 percent renewable energy goal and the counties' pledge to eliminate fossil fuels from ground transportation.

Bicycling and multimodal transportation, however, require dedicated support. It is important to continue funding and implementing bicycle lane and complete street projects, as each project only further substantiates the value to users and the general public. Ulupono strongly supports long-term dedication and commitment to a fully integrated multimodal transportation system.

Increased federal funding support for building out Hawai'i's bicycling and pedestrian infrastructure will help speed the growth of the network. Successfully procuring federal funding can demonstrate to public and private sector stakeholders that there is a real commitment and a viable plan to improving our transportation networks.

Ulupono was an early supporter and funder of Biki, Honolulu's new bikeshare program. During the first six months of operation, a total of 360,729 rides were taken on Biki, with nearly two-thirds of those trips taken by residents. Biki's initial success and growing ridership is evidence of the possible positive results of building out bicycling infrastructure. Having more protected bicycle lanes would encourage further usage of bicycling, and Biki bikes, and help Hawai'i transition to a clean renewable energy future.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Murray Clay
Managing Partner

HR-189

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 10:36:45 AM

Testimony for TRN on 3/21/2018 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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March 20, 2018

Testimony on HCR219/HR189

Aloha Transportation Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Quinlan, and esteemed members of the Committee on Transportation:

The Hawaii Bicycling League supports the intent of HCR219/HR189 to use more federal funding for bicycle and pedestrian projects. In our experience, the Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT), Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization (OMPO), and county transportation departments have been proactive in pursuing and using federal funds for bicycle and pedestrian projects. We applaud the work of HDOT and OMPO in administering the Transportation Alternatives Program special funding for bicycle/pedestrian projects to ensure these funds are fully utilized for their intended purpose of developing bicycle and pedestrian projects. We certainly support the use of a greater portion of Hawaii's federal transportation funding for bicycle and pedestrian projects and the seeking of other federal funds that might be available.

Thank you very much for considering the comments of 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chad Taniguchi".

Chad Taniguchi
Executive Director
Hawaii Bicycling League

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Alexander".

Daniel Alexander
Advocacy & Planning Director
Hawaii Bicycling League