

TESTIMONY BY:

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

April 3, 2019
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Room 325

**H.C.R. 162, H.D.1 / H.R. 145, H.D.1
RELATING TO REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO
COLLABORATE WITH THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES TO CONDUCT A STUDY TO ENHANCE
PEDESTRIAN SAFETY AT THE INTERSECTION OF ALA MOANA BOULDEVAR
AND KAMAKEE STREET.**

House Committee on Judiciary

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** this bill, and offers the following comments:

1. After the traffic incident the DOT assessed on February 11, 2019 the subject intersection and identified the following proposed improvements for the short- and mid-term.
 - a. Short-term improvements
 - i. Restrict right turn on red for all approaches.
 - ii. Remove right turn from Ala Moana Boulevard onto Kamakee Street.
 - b. Mid-term improvements
 - i. Increase sidewalk widths by filling in green spaces between sidewalk and curb.
 - ii. Reposition crosswalk and island to shorten the length to cross Ala Moana Boulevard and increase separation between crosswalk and through traffic from Kamakee Street.
2. Additionally, the DOT is moving forward with the following efforts to improve pedestrian safety:
 - a. Evaluation of unsignalized crosswalks for relocation, consolidation, and/or enhancements such as additional signage, advance stop bars, pavement words, rectangular rapid flash beacons (RRFB), pedestrian refuge islands, lane reconfigurations/repurposing, traffic signals, etc;
 - b. Evaluation location of bus stops;
 - c. Widening sidewalks where feasible;
 - d. Restrict right turn on red where appropriate; and

- e. Evaluate signalized crosswalk configurations at intersections including traffic signal timing and/or phasing.
 - f. Implementation of pedestrian awareness by conducting:
 - i. Sign waving in communities with outreach to media;
 - ii. Walk Wise Hawaii program, which educates the public on pedestrian and driver safety.
 - iii. Partnering with the City and County of Honolulu, Department of Transportation Services and Honolulu Police Department.
3. The proposed short-term improvements will be announced to the public for comments or feedback before implementation. The assessment and identified improvements have been coordinated with the City and County Department of Transportation Services.
4. The mid-term improvements will be further assessed and coordinated in the design process in the next pavement resurfacing project, or in a separate project.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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April 3, 2019

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

HCR 162, HD1/HR 145, HD1 - Requesting The Department Of Transportation To Collaborate with the City and County of Honolulu Department of Transportation Services and Appropriate Private Entities to Conduct A Study to Enhance Pedestrian Safety at the Intersection of Ala Moana Boulevard and Kamakee Street

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) is in support of HCR 162, HD1/HR 145, HD1 because they call for the appropriate public and private entities to collaborate on a study regarding how to improve pedestrian safety at the Ala Moana Boulevard and Kamakee Street intersection. It would additionally request the State Department of Transportation to consider enhanced safety measures at high volume crossings across the State.

DCAB notes that pedestrians with disabilities have elevated risk factors when interacting with vehicular traffic. Persons who use wheelchairs and other mobility devices and persons of short stature are lower to the ground and are thus less visible to drivers looking over the hood of their vehicles. Blind and deaf pedestrians are not able to rely on audio or visual cues that other pedestrians use to avoid negative interactions. In addition, pedestrians with a mobility disability – such as persons with arthritis, vascular and orthopedic conditions – may not have the agility or reflexive speed to get out of the way of an oncoming vehicle, especially vehicles that run red lights.

Therefore, DCAB requests that the entities involved with the study consider the safety needs of pedestrians with disabilities. To that end, the entities may contact DCAB as a resource for relevant information.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

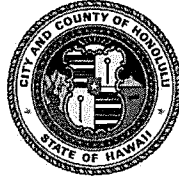
Respectfully submitted,

FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR



WES FRYSZTACKI
DIRECTOR

JON Y. NOUCHI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

April 3, 2019

The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair
The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair
and Members of the House
Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol, Room 325
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Lee, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and Members of the Committee:

**SUBJECT: Testimony on House Concurrent Resolution 162 &
House Resolution 145**

The Department of Transportation Services is in support of this measure.

We are supportive of Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) efforts to enhance pedestrian safety at the intersection of Ala Moana Boulevard and Kamakee Street, and we note that HDOT has jurisdiction over this intersection.

Immediately following the fatal collision on January 28, 2019, DTS joined HDOT in a walkthrough of the intersection to identify short-term and longer-term solutions to improve pedestrian safety. We look forward to collaborating with HDOT in implementing these improvements.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Frysztacki".

Wes Frysztacki
Director



Representative Chris Lee, Chair
Representative Joy San Buenaventura, Vice Chair
House Committee on Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



RE: HCR 162 HD1/HR 145 HD1 – Requesting The Department Of Transportation To Collaborate with the City and County of Honolulu Department of Transportation Services and Appropriate Private Entities to Conduct a Study to Enhance Pedestrian Safety at the Intersection of Ala Moana Boulevard and Kamakee Street

Testimony in Support

**Wednesday, April 3, 2019, 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 325**

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Todd Apo, Senior Vice President, Community Development of The Howard Hughes Corporation, and on behalf of Ward Village, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HCR 162 HD1/HR 145 HD1, which request the State Department of Transportation to collaborate with the City and County of Honolulu Department of Transportation Services and appropriate private entities to conduct a study on potential pedestrian safety measures at the intersection of Ala Moana Boulevard and Kamakee Street, including constructing pedestrian bridges in the area.

As the master plan developer for Ward Villages, which includes property along Ala Moana Boulevard and Kamakee Street, Howard Hughes shares the Legislature’s concern regarding the increase in pedestrian accidents and fatalities on Oahu, including the tragic accident that occurred on January 28, 2019. Howard Hughes is in the process of transforming Ward Villages into a walkable “live, work and play” community, and as such, supports the consideration of all reasonable efforts to protect pedestrians, including the construction of elevated walkways in and near the intersection of Kamakee Street.

We support the language in the resolutions that request that the Department of Transportation to collaborate with the City and County of Honolulu and

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Todd Apo
Senior Vice President
Community Development



appropriate private entities to conduct a study of various pedestrian safety measures at the Kamakee Street intersection (and others), and report to the Legislature next year. In addition, however, we believe that the process to plan for and design elevated walkways in the area can commence earlier. As part of that process, Howard Hughes has taken the initiative to preliminarily discuss the feasibility of a public-private partnership with the State Department of Transportation to help make elevated walkways -- which would greatly enhance pedestrian safety and experience in the area, while minimizing traffic impacts -- a reality.



While Howard Hughes's agreement and commitment to such a partnership will depend upon numerous details yet to be discussed, if all parties eventually agree to the terms of such a partnership, Howard Hughes envisions that it will be able to employ its resources and development expertise to help fund, plan, design and construct the elevated walkway, which would be located, in part, on Ward Village property. If implemented, this public private partnership will result in significantly-enhanced pedestrian safety while providing a better overall experience for all those who live, work, play and visit the area.

Given the foregoing, Howard Hughes respectfully supports these resolutions and intends to continue its discussions with the State Department of Transportation regarding a public-private partnership in order to develop enhanced pedestrian safety measures in this area, including elevated walkways across Ala Moana Boulevard.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of these resolutions.

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