



TESTIMONY BY:

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**LATE**

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

March 11, 2020  
1:15 P.M.  
State Capitol, Room 225

**S.C.R. 80**  
**REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO EXAMINE AND  
PROVIDE A SAFE WAY FOR PEDESTRIANS TO CROSS HAWAII BELT ROAD**

Senate Committee on Transportation

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The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** the intent of S.C.R. 80, and offers the following comments:

1. DOT has investigated the intersection of Hawaii Belt Road and Lotus Blossom Lane with the following results:
  - a. The speed limit on Hawaii Belt Road is 55 mph that drops down to 45 mph for approximately 1500 feet in the vicinity of the Lotus Blossom Lane intersection.
  - b. In the vicinity of the Lotus Blossom intersection, Hawaii Belt Road has a straight alignment with one 12 ft. lane in each direction, a 11 ft. left turn storage lane at the intersection, and 8-10 ft. shoulders on each side.
  - c. According to the County of Hawaii (CoH) Mass Transit, approximately 4 passengers cross Hawaii Belt Road per day.
  - d. Daily traffic volume is approximately 4,800 vehicles.
  - e. Pedestrians primarily cross the high speed facility for commuting to work using the county bus system.
  - f. There were no major crashes from 2015 to 2017.
2. The DOT is currently working with the CoH Mass Transit on possible re-routing of the bus onto roads in the Hawaiian Ocean View Estates. This will provide safer access to the public transit system and remove the need to cross a high speed highway.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**LATE**



**Roy Takemoto**  
*Managing Director*

**Barbara J. Kossow**  
*Deputy Managing Director*

## County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

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March 10, 2020

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair  
Senator Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair  
Committee on Transportation

Dear Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Harimoto, and Committee Members:

**RE: SCR 80/SR 47 Requesting the Department of Transportation to Examine and Provide a Safe Way for Pedestrians to Cross Hawai'i Belt Road**

SCR 80/SR 47 call for a study of pedestrian traffic on and near Lotus Blossom Lane in Ocean View, a sprawling subdivision in the southwestern quadrant of the Big Island bordering on Highway 11. It is a high-growth area, particularly attractive to young families because of its relative affordability.

Our Senator has identified a hazard that we hope can be addressed by the Department of Transportation, and I thank this Committee for considering these resolutions.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harry Kim  
MAYOR

**SCR-80**

Submitted on: 3/9/2020 3:27:23 PM

Testimony for TRS on 3/11/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Chad Taniguchi	Testifying for Hawaii Bicycling League	Support	No

Comments:

The Hawaii Bicycling League supports SCR80 calling for safe pedestrian crossing on Hawaii Belt Road at Lotus Blossom Road. With the speed limit at 55mph, a safe crossing is needed.

While the following may not be the solution, we note that on Kauai near Pakala Village, the speed limit is drastically reduced when nearing the intersection of the Pakala/Makaweli post office. The speed limit reduction could also be emphasized with the addition of an elevated cross walk if the number of pedestrians crossing there warrant such treatment.

All our public roads should be safe for all modes to use -- drivers and bicyclists exiting the side streets, as well as people walking across to commercial or residential areas all have a right to safe access.

As Kamehameha I declared with the Law of the Splintered Paddle, the strong have the obligation to protect the weak. In this case, fast and dangerous motor vehicles have the obligation to slow down whenever they see more vulnerable road users, and to stop whenever someone is crossing. The DOT has the responsibility to create the infrastructure to allow safe access to all modes, so the strong WILL stop and yield for the weak by design, not just because they are paying extra attention. An elevated crosswalk with ample warning should be seriously considered.



## Peoples Advocacy For Trails Hawai'i

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March 10, 2020

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#### Mission

To safely connect  
the people and  
places on Hawaii  
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since 1986

### IN SUPPORT OF SCR80

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO EXAMINE AND PROVIDE A SAFE WAY FOR PEDESTRIANS TO CROSS HAWAII BELT ROAD.

To the Honorable Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Harrimoto, and members of the Committee:

Peoples Advocacy for Trails Hawaii (PATH) is writing in strong support of SCR80 requesting the Department of Transportation to examine and provide a safe way for pedestrians to cross Hawaii Belt Road.

We strongly recommend that DOT look at including multi modal designs and traffic calming measures in any restriping and maintenance work conducted on Hawaii Island roadways. Hawaii Island experiences a disproportionate number of pedestrian traffic fatalities relative to our population.

DOT can lead the way in the state, by designing our roadways to safe for all users.

PATH is available to contribute should the DOT desire community input regarding pedestrian transportation needs.

Sincerely,

Tina Clothier  
Strategic Projects Director

**LATE**

**SCR-80**

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 9:41:22 AM

Testimony for TRS on 3/11/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rayne	Individual	Support	No

Comments: