



**TESTIMONY BY:**

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

February 17, 2021  
11:00 A.M.  
State Capitol, Teleconference

**H.B. 1081**  
**RELATING TO SIDEWALKS**

House Committee on Transportation

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The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** H.B. 1081 and offers comments to address some concerns related to items in the bill. H.B. 1081 requires the DOT and each county's transportation department to create and maintain a priority list of sidewalk installation and improvement projects and to publish the priority list on their respective websites.

The DOT supports efforts to improve the pedestrian network. We already have a comprehensive process in place to improve and maintain not only sidewalks, but the DOT's pedestrian network. The DOT's nationally recognized Statewide Pedestrian Master Plan reviewed existing conditions in the DOT's pedestrian network, including the location of facilities (e.g., sidewalks and shared use paths), pedestrian attractors, transit routes, census characteristics, and safety data. Based on existing conditions and input from the public and stakeholders, the project team identified thirty areas of concern and developed recommendations for improving those areas. The DOT has implemented half of the top ten project recommendations. In addition to the Statewide Pedestrian Master Plan, the DOT has existing maintenance contracts for its sidewalk network and maintains a complaint hotline and log for the public to use to notify the DOT of concerns on the DOT system.

The DOT is concerned that the bill's focus on sidewalks would inadvertently exclude rural areas that prefer not to have sidewalks/curb and gutter and prefer instead facilities such as shared use paths that are more consistent with the context of the location. Also tracking only Capital Improvement Projects funds would not accurately portray the amount of funds expended on improving the pedestrian network because it leaves out funding expended on sidewalk maintenance as well as other pedestrian improvements (e.g., crosswalks, shared use paths) or pedestrian improvements completed as part of larger projects. Although the DOT has an existing process in place to improve and maintain the pedestrian network, in order to develop items specifically asked for in the

bill, the DOT would need more time than allotted for by the existing initial deadline in the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**HB-1081**

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 12:44:29 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/17/2021 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rachel Roper	Hawaii Department of Transportation	Support	No

Comments:

I am with the DOT and am available for comments.

**HB-1081**

Submitted on: 2/16/2021 9:13:20 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/17/2021 11:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Attending to support HDOT's position.



WAIKIKI NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 9

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The Waikiki Neighborhood Board supports the concept of the following bill: SB1081

At the February 9, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Waikiki Neighborhood Board the Board voted in favor of the concept of this bill.

This Bill would seem to support issues like Complete Streets implantation and require Counties to plan for future construction and funding for critical pedestrian and transportation safety.

*Robert J. Finley*  
Robert J. Finley  
Chair

**HB-1081**

Submitted on: 2/12/2021 7:13:14 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/17/2021 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mike Golojuch, Sr.	Palehua Townhouse Association	Support	No

Comments:

Our association considers this a positive plan for sidewalks in all counties. Please pass HB1081.

Mike Golojuch, Sr., President Palehua Townhouse Association

Member, Citizens Advisory Committee, Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization

**HB-1081**

Submitted on: 2/16/2021 10:34:18 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/17/2021 11:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

The Hawaii Bicycling League supports HB1081 to have the counties plan for and inform the public on sidewalks it plans. Sidewalks provide a dedicated space for people who walk to be separated from car and bicycle users.

The Hawaii Bicycling League supports safe access to our public roads for all users, with safety priorities for the most vulnerable users, those who walk, bike, take transit, and work on the roads.

Mahalo for passing this important bill.

**HB-1081**

Submitted on: 2/16/2021 9:56:18 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/17/2021 11:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

As a pedestrian and mother of children who use the walkways to get to and from school, I am in strong support of this bill. This bill is proactive and useful as Hawai'i continues to develop rapidly. It promotes walkable and bikable communities that benefit places in various ways such as: promotes a healthy lifestyle, promotes safer routes to schools/places, and encourages a greener and cleaner lifestyle. This bill benefits all ages from keiki to kupuna and can help community members utilize the places they walk safely and effectively.

Mahalo,

Crystal



**LATE**

**HB-1081**

Submitted on: 2/16/2021 11:15:37 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/17/2021 11:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Representative Aquino , Vice Chair Representative Ilagan and members of the Transportation Committee Please accept my testimony for this very important legislation.

I support HB1081 requiring the transportation departments to create and maintain a priority list of sidewalk installation and improvement projects. This requirement will produce an inventory of pedestrian facilities within the state and subsequently accentuate where pedestrian facilities are needed. This is an equity issue as many of our older neighborhoods do not have sidewalks. Smart Growth America states that between 2008 and 2017 drivers struck and killed 49,340 people who were walking on streets all across America, this is an increase of 35.4% over this time period. This legislation will facilitate upgrading our roadways so that they are safe for all users.

Thank You,

John Rogers

Transportation Chair Ewa Neighborhood Board #23

**LATE**

Date: February 16, 2021

To: The Honorable Rep. Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair  
The Honorable Rep. Greggor Ilagan, Vice Chair  
Members of the House of Representatives Committee on Transportation

Regarding: Support of HB1081, Relating to Sidewalks

Hearing: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 11:00 AM; Room 423 & via videoconference

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**Position: Support**

Good morning, Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Ilagan, and members of the House of Representatives Committee on Transportation. My name is Karissa DeWeerd, I am a current student in the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's Master of Social Work (MSW) program here in Honolulu. I support HB1081 requiring each county to create and maintain sidewalk installation and improvement projects.

In the MSW program at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, we are continually learning about community resources and assets. It is important to continually build and explore resources and assets in communities, but it is especially important to do so in the middle of a pandemic. By passing HB1081, you are promoting community wellness and showing residents you care about their wellbeing.

Around 80% of Americans prefer communities with sidewalks.<sup>1</sup> They are considered great assets in communities and provide many benefits. Sidewalks provide safety, reduced crashes, and promote physical activity.<sup>2</sup> Additionally, a resource by the AARP regarding sidewalks suggests that building and maintaining sidewalks helps to increase community connectivity (i.e., between parks, local businesses, schools, etc.).<sup>1</sup> By passing HB1081, you can show residents of Hawaii that you care about their wellbeing and are looking out for their best interests.

Sidewalks are an important asset to our communities here in Hawai'i, and data shows that they offer many benefits. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB1081.

Karissa DeWeerd

References:

<sup>1</sup> AARP (2014). *Sidewalks: A livability fact sheet* [fact sheet]. <https://www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/livable-communities/livable-documents/documents-2014/Livability%20Fact%20Sheets/Sidewalks-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration (2013). *Safety benefits of walkways, sidewalks, and paved shoulders*. Safety. [https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/ped\\_bike/tools\\_solve/walkways\\_trifold/](https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/ped_bike/tools_solve/walkways_trifold/)

**LATE**

**HB-1081**

Submitted on: 2/16/2021 4:02:53 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/17/2021 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ed Sniffen	Hawaii DOT	Support	No

Comments:

I am with DOT and am available for comments.

**LATE**

**HB-1081**

Submitted on: 2/16/2021 7:47:27 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/17/2021 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alexander Gaos	Ewa Neighborhood Board #23	Support	No

Comments:

16 February 2021

**RE: Testimony for Bill HB1081 soliciting the section pf Fort Weaver Road, between Kilaha Street and Puuloa Beach Park, be added to HDOT's priority list of sidewalk installation projects.**

Dear members of the Legislature of the State of Hawaii,

I am providing testimony as both a member of the Ewa Neighborhood Board #23 (ENB) and as concerned member of a neighborhood hui looking to improve the safety and usability of a section of **Fort Weaver Road, between Kilaha Street and Puuloa Beach Park** (herein referred to as the "Section"). This approximately 1.0 mile Section is the primary access to several schools (elementary, intermediate, and high schools) for all the children living in the area, yet **has no pedestrian access, lacking any sort of walkway, sidewalk, shared use path or bike lane.**

Members of the surrounding community (including myself) have formed a hui and voiced their concerns for the safety of the Section, which is compounded by the fact that 1) it is a long straightaway with no speed tables, so vehicles travel extremely fast, and 2) by the fact that vehicles park vertically up against the edge of Fort Weaver Road, leaving no room for pedestrians to walk. The result of these issues is that the roadway is severely underutilized, especially by students, seniors, and persons with disabilities. It simply is not safe for pedesitrians. These issues were summarized in a Resolution that was passed by the ENB on 14 January 2021 by a vote of 10-0-0, which solicited the development of a shared-use path (i.e., a sidewalk) along the section. It is worth noting that there is plenty of room to install a sidewalk on either (or both) sides of the Section, as noted in the Oahu Pedestrian Plan.

Developing a sidewalk on the Section is also a question of equity. Over the past three decades the Ewa District has grown exponentially, with pedestrian and cycling infrastructure accompanying the development of the new neighborhoods. Meanwhile, the original neighborhoods (primarily developed in the 1950s and 1960's) have received

virtually no pedestrian or cycling infrastructure improvements. This inequity is most notable in the mile-long Section.

**A sidewalk is urgently needed and would solve the existing issues by providing a safe area for pedestirans to walk.** We strongly urge the Section be added to the Hawaii Department of Transportation's priority list of sidewalk installation projects.

Kind regards and please do not hesitate to contact me for any additional information.

Alexander R. Gaos, PhD  
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