



TESTIMONY BY:

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

April 12, 2022
3:00 P.M.

State Capitol, Conference Room 224/Teleconference

G.M. 848

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Highway Safety Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, CONSTANCE MITCHELL, for a term to expire 06-30-2022.

Senate Committee on Transportation

The Department of Transportation (DOT) in **strong support** of the nomination of Constance Mitchell to the State Highway Safety Council (SHSC).

Chapter 286-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, establishes the SHSC which advises the Governor on matters relating to the programs and activities of the state in the field of highway safety. The state has adjusted the makeup of the committee from a group that was primarily government officials and safety advocates, to one that includes cross sections of all users of the highway system in our community. We believe the Gubernatorial Nominees will bring knowledge, experience and passion that will add tremendously to a council that will advise the department on eliminating roadway fatalities while modernizing the system to meet the current and future needs of our state.

Ms. Connie Mitchell serves as the executive director of The Institute for Human Services, Inc. (IHS) and provides executive leadership to Hawaii's oldest and largest social service agency focused on providing basic shelter and services to many of Hawaii's homeless. Ms. Mitchell has been involved with providing supportive services to our state's most vulnerable population efficiently and successfully for many years. She understands the needs of the community, has great relationships with Partners in Care, and has worked closely with the state, county, and elected officials to help address our homeless crisis.

Ms. Mitchell would provide the SHSC a much needed and often overlooked perspective of individuals facing homelessness and or extreme poverty. In addition, her previous outreach and medical experience could help provide insight to type of impact traffic collisions have on the population IHS helps serve. At a time when we are seeing homeless individuals accounting for an increasing number of fatalities on the highway

system annually, Ms. Mitchell's involvement in improving highway safety will be significant.

The DOT respectfully requests that this Committee confirm Constance Mitchell to the SHSC, whose members serve without compensation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

April 12, 2022

TO: The Honorable Senator Chris Lee, Chair
Senate Committee on Transportation

FROM: Scott Morishige, MSW, Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness

SUBJECT: **GM 848 & GM 849 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Highway Safety Council, Gubernatorial Nominee CONSTANCE MITCHELL terms to expire 6-30-2022 and 6-30-2026 (respectively)**

Hearing: Tuesday, April 12, 2022, 3:00 p.m.
VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

POSITION: The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness supports the nomination of Ms. Connie Mitchell to the State Highway Safety Council.

PURPOSE: The purpose of GM 848 and GM 849 is to submit gubernatorial nominee, Connie Mitchell, to the State Highway Safety Council for terms to expire on 6-30-22 and 6-30-26 respectively.

Ms. Mitchell currently serves as the Executive Director of the Institute for Human Services (I.H.S.), which provides a continuum of shelter and housing services focused on ending and preventing homelessness. I have worked closely with Ms. Mitchell in her role at I.H.S., as well as past leadership roles she has held with Partners in Care and as a member of the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH). Based on my past and current experience working with her, Ms. Mitchell is a diligent and dedicated advocate for Hawaii's most vulnerable residents.

I am in strong support of including the perspective of a homeless service provider on the State Highway Safety Council. It is important for this council to be diverse so that solutions are practical, sensible, and effective. Unfortunately, and sadly, a number of traffic fatalities each

year involve people experiencing unsheltered homelessness. The addition of Ms. Mitchell's voice and expertise to this council is a critical step toward protecting people experiencing homelessness in Hawaii and preventing future fatalities.

I respectfully ask your committee to advise and consent to this nomination.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Testimony of Ku'uhaku Park
On Behalf of Matson Navigation Company, Inc.
Support of
GM 848 & GM 849 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Highway Safety
Council, Gubernatorial Nominee CONSTANCE MITCHELL terms to expire 6-30-2022 and 6-30-
2026 (respectively)
Before the Senate Committee on Transportation
April 12, 2022

Dear Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee:

Matson Navigation Company, Inc. ("Matson") is pleased to offer our support for Connie Mitchell and her appointment to the State Highway Safety Council.

For the past 16 years, Connie has led Institute for Human Services (IHS), and for the past 8 years I have had the privilege of serving on the IHS board of directors. This organization has is a critically important part of Hawaii's solution to ending or preventing homelessness through its outreach, health, housing, employment, and case management services, as well as family programs designed to break cycles of homelessness. IHS staff engage face-to-face daily with those with greatest need and often provide an advocating voice for those who remain unrepresented.

I cannot think of a better appointee to this council who can present the perspective of a homeless service provider in advising how to shape safety programs for our state's highway system. This perspective is unconventional but very much needed. Connie's very real world competencies can shed light on traffic impediments caused by homeless transit patterns and encampments, and it is our hope that Connie's voice and expertise will contribute to protecting Hawaii's homeless and preventing tragic fatalities on our roads.

Thank for the opportunity to testify in favor of this appointee. I urge your committee to advise and consent to this nomination.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Honorable Chris Lee, Chair

Aloha Chair Lee and members of the Transportation Committee,
I am writing to support the appointment of Connie Mitchell to the Highway Safety Council.

My name is Mike Lambert. I have 19 years of law enforcement experience with the Honolulu Police Department and I am the current Major of the Training Division. I am writing my support as an individual citizen and my letter is not an endorsement on behalf of the Honolulu Police Department.

I have worked with Ms. Mitchell since 2017 on numerous projects related to homelessness and the behavioral health responses. Those initiatives include Crisis Intervention Team Honolulu, Assisted Community Treatment, Health Efficiency Long-term Partnership (HELP) Honolulu, Provisional Outdoor Screening and Triage (POST) and Homeless Outreach and Navigation for Unsheltered (HONU) as well as several think tank groups, coordinated committees and State Task Forces. I can attest to her knowledge and passion in assisting individuals experiencing homelessness. She has always provided a balanced view on complex topics and is willing to create projects to address gaps in the system. Her experience as a psychiatric clinical nurse specialist and Executive Director of the largest homeless services agency in Hawaii has made her invaluable in providing insight in tackling the biggest public health issues in Honolulu. People experiencing homelessness is an issue that impacts highway safety due to many of those individuals living under overpasses, along roadways, and beneath guideways, which is dangerous for them and the community.

I have watched her advocate for services and programs that benefit individuals in crisis, as well ideas that advance partnerships between the State of Hawaii, City and County of Honolulu, and non-profit agencies. Her passion and leadership will make her invaluable to the Highway Safety Council. Her knowledge and understanding of the homeless and behavioral health systems will benefit this committee and the entire State of Hawaii. Ms. Mitchell is a genuine problem solver that always ask those in the room, "What is the reality?" as we look for answers to complex issues.

Thank you for allowing me to offer testimony in support of her nomination to the State Department of Transportation's Highway Safety Council.

Mahalo,

Mike Lambert
April 7, 2022

Senate Transportation Committee
Honorable Chris Lee, Chair

April 8, 2022

Aloha Chair Lee,

My name is Connie Mitchell and I humbly ask that the Senate Transportation Committee confirm my appointment to serve as a member of the Department of Transportation Highway Safety Council,

I am a life-long resident of Hawaii and have observed the tremendous changes that have morphed our island community - sometimes for better and sometimes for worse. I have also been working with homeless persons over the past 16 years as the Executive Director of IHS, The Institute for Human Services. During my tenure at IHS, I have noted how homeless persons are often the victims of crime and victims of motor vehicle accidents as well. I know that good public policy is based on input from a wide range of our community's citizens. I also know that it requires an ability to analyze data, collaborate and negotiate solutions that are win-win for as many as possible.

My desire to serve on the Highway Safety Council is driven by my wish to contribute a balanced perspective to promoting safety for both persons experiencing homelessness and the community at large. I am sure that those who have been involved in accidents that have been precipitated by people who are lacking awareness and decisional capacity are traumatized by the event, even when they were not at fault. And I also know the tragedy of lives lost who lacked the safety that so many of us take for granted.

As a homeless advocate, my commitment to ending homelessness is also fueled by a desire to see our community better able to house our citizens so that living unsheltered is not such a common occurrence in our community. As a public health nurse, I know that shelter and housing increases citizen safety exponentially, including reducing the number of injuries that occur on our highways and roadways. I also know that the poorest among us need transportation and need equal access to better their living situation.

I remain able and eager to serve.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Connie Mitchell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Connie Mitchell, M.S., APRN
Executive Director, IHS

LATE

GM-848

Submitted on: 4/11/2022 10:22:40 PM

Testimony for TRS on 4/12/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chad K Taniguchi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Connie Mitchell has been IHS's dedicated, strong, and passionate leader for many years. Her organization looks out for our residents without stable housing. Unfortunately, those same residents are among the victims of traffic crashes. Her knowledge and experience will help our transportation agencies consider the safe transportation needs of our most vulnerable residents.