



**TESTIMONY BY:**

JADE T. BUTAY  
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors  
LYNN A.S. ARAKI-REGAN  
DEREK J. CHOW  
ROSS M. HIGASHI  
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN

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

February 10, 2021  
10:00 A.M.  
State Capitol, Teleconference

**H.B. 1195  
RELATING TO HIGHWAYS**

House Committee on Transportation

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The Department of Transportation (DOT) offers **comments** to H.B. 1195.

This bill requires the DOT, in collaboration with the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, to develop plans for the construction of secondary access roads for the Waianae district of leeward Oahu and appropriates funds to develop the construction plans.

The DOT supports efforts to make improvements to the Leeward Coast corridor. The DOT is underway with the Farrington Highway Corridor Study. This study will identify and prioritize safety, congestion and resiliency improvements along the entire Farrington Highway (Route 93) corridor. It is expected that most improvements would be identified within the Westside community areas from Nanakuli to Makaha. Discussions regarding second access and parallel access will be discussed in our reports; however, the focus will be on what can be done on, or to Farrington Highway itself. The Farrington Highway study should be finalized by the end of summer 2021.

In addition, since this effort would include both State and City involvement, the DOT recommends that it be led by the Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization (OahuMPO) in accordance with the transportation planning process. It is the role and responsibility of the OahuMPO to develop transportation studies that include both State and City roads and as such they would facilitate participation between the various jurisdictions involved. The OahuMPO is currently developing the Farrington Highway Mākaha Beach Realignment Feasibility Study. The purpose of this study is to identify the social, environmental, technical, and economic impacts, costs, and benefits of a potential realignment of Farrington Highway in the vicinity of Mākaha Beach Park near Kili Drive. This study could provide help inform the efforts to construct a second access.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**HB-1195**

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 4:00:56 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/10/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kathleen Moses Benson	Industrial Battery Solutions LLC	Comments	No

Comments:

Please begin work as quickly as possible to create better access roads on the west side of Oahu. As the west side continues to develop commercially and as more and more homes are built there, appropriate infrastructure is essential. My small business is negatively impacted every day by the terrible traffic delays as we try to travel between our location in Waipahu and our customers in town, in central Oahu, and the west side. My business suffers, my customers suffer, my employees suffer, and I suffer too as a west side resident. Better access on the west side will improve the quality of life for EVERYONE on Oahu, because people and businesses will be able to operate so much more efficiently.

In addition, increased access is essential for public safety in the case of an emergency or urgent situation. We are often trapped!

Please do not be swayed by public transportation arguments against road improvements. Busses are already packed beyond capacity (wow, talk about Covid super-spreader!), and rail is clearly so poorly designed it won't take many cars off the road. Like it or not, cars are here to stay and most people on the west side travel to and from their jobs in town in those cars every single day.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Moses Benson

President, Industrial Battery Solutions LLC

**HB-1195**

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 2:17:50 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/10/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kekoa Oliveros-Walker	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

As a resident of nanakuli valley for all 32 years of my life I've seen the growth in traffic and development on the Waianae coast. We need to control it not open the door for more development and traffic by adding another way in to the coast. With more foreign investors the prices will only go up and force us out of our homes. The people are your number one priority the people of this Āina that lived here for generations and generations. Stop new development, concentrate on one developing what's already here on the west side.. No foreign investors allowed to purchase on the leeward coast. Widen the road to hakimo for bus stops and turn pockets.. Try those first before even ever talking about another access point.. A'ole!! Mahalo!

**HB-1195**

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 2:23:57 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/10/2021 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Every other community on the island has access from multiple points into and out of their community. The Waianae Coast is extremely different in that manner in that we only have one road for ingress and egress. OMPO has had a secondary access road for our coast on their to-do list for over 25 years. At least five funded and separate studies have been done and concluded that a secondary access road is a necessity for our coast. However, the state department of transportation opines that funding is unavailable for this project, and has kicked the can down the road for several decades now. That same department has explained that a road of this caliber will cost them nearly their entire annual budget, if not more, to build.

The Waianae Coast has continually been treated like a second-class citizen. When one of multiple access points for the Winward coast was damaged several years ago, that road was funded with emergency repair money almost immediately. This would be the Pali highway, which was damaged at the tunnel area by a landslide. If other communities can be given funding for such large projects, yet have multiple points of ingress and egress to their communities already, why can our coast not be given the same consideration?

Our population has grown exponentially with the installation of many new DHHL communities, as well as a large influx of new residents to our coast. With that population growth, infrastructure has not been addressed properly, and a typical day's commute consists of a two hour, one-way drive from Waianae to Honolulu. Residents spend nearly 4 hours a day in their vehicle to get from home to work. This would never stand in other communities on the island, such as Hawaii Kai or Kahala. Why is it OK to treat residents of our coast in this manner? Why is it OK to not give us the same consideration for our tax dollars that other communities on this island receive? The short answer is that it is not acceptable.

It is time to fund a secondary access road that will be built within the next decade for the Waianae Coast. It does not have to be elaborate. It does not have to be an engineering masterpiece. It simply needs to be functional and serviceable for residents to have an alternate means of getting on and off our coast in terms of commuting, for emergency purposes, and to have a route that is not coastal, as global warming and sea level rise

impacts our island roadways. Fund it. Pass it. Build it. Enough wasting time with shelved studies and excuses.

I support the building and funding of a secondary access road to and from the Waianae Coast. It is needed. It is essential. There is no longer an excuse not to build it. The time to stop treating our residents like secondhand citizens is now.

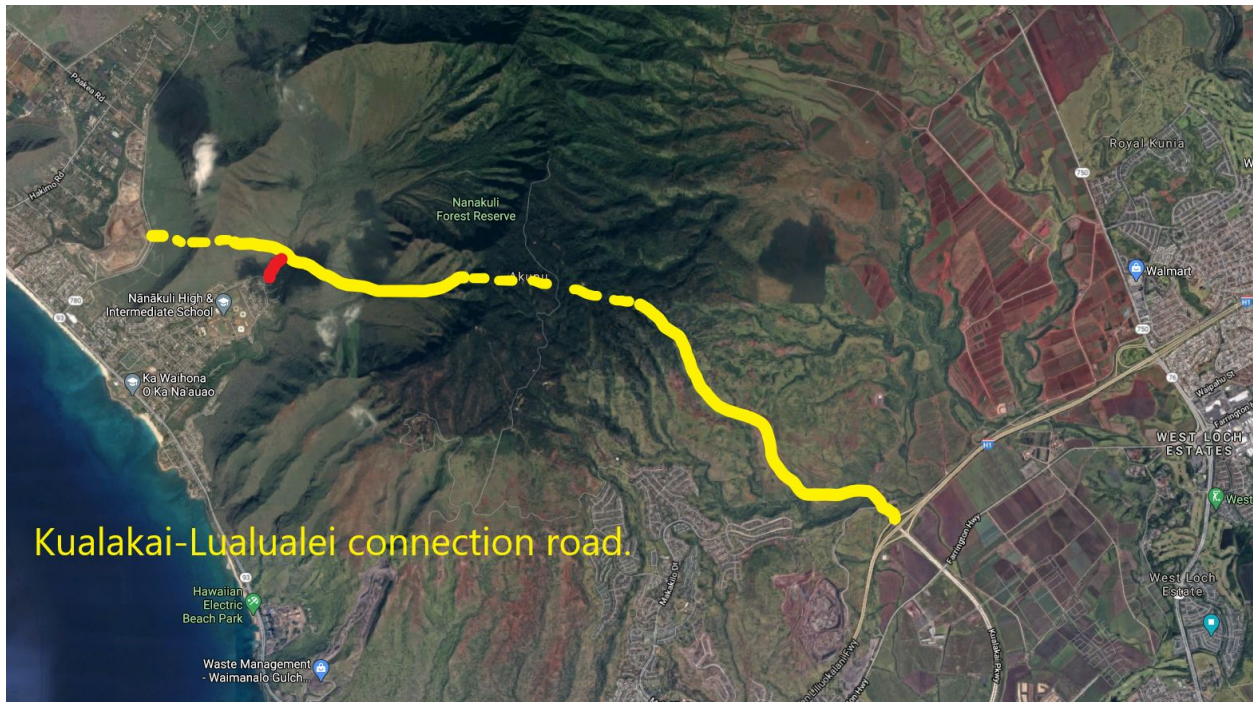
## HB1195 Testimony

I am writing in SUPPORT of HB 1195

I am a lifelong resident of the Waianae coast, I've grown up here and have noticed traffic always getting worse. I remember when a hostage situation lasting more than 12 hours shut down the entire Waianae coast. The response to that was to build an 'access road' less than 10 yards from where the hostage situation took place, and if the exact same situation had occurred, would have shut down the bypass road for safety reasons as well.

While projects like the widening of Farrington Highway and adding turn lanes along most of it (for some strange reason stopping sort of one of the worst choke points on this side of the island) and increasing public transit has helped in small amounts to help alleviate traffic, it is not enough. The Bypass Roads put in help slightly in situations when they are authorized to be open but they are not a solution and only help in certain situations.

Below I have sketched out a very rough path for a potential alternate route that would connect Lualualei Naval Road and Kualakai Parkway together. This route would more than likely require at least two if not more tunnels. However since it connects to a military base (Lualualei Naval Ammunition Depot) there could be the potential to get federal funding and make it the 'H4' freeway. If this was combined with extending the turn lane in Nanakuli to Lualualei and permanently opening the Pa'akea road extension, it would not only help alleviate traffic but also provide a true alternate route in and out of the Waianae coast. The line in red would be an extension of Nanakuli Avenue to the bypass road allowing residents in that area another route.



**HB-1195**

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 4:19:13 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/10/2021 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

A drive that should take no more than 50 minutes from town, sometimes takes 3 hours. This is unacceptable and needs to be addressed. This weighs on your physical and mental health. Please provide a reasonable alternative for the people of the Leeward coast.

**HB-1195**

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 6:09:08 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/10/2021 10:00:00 AM

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

## Comments:

I support this Bill 1195. The Waianae district needs a secondary access road as our current roadways (2 lanes inbound and 2 lanes outbound) is insufficient, outdated, and dangerous. Our population has grown tremendously. I don't know the exact number but you can see it daily in the traffic. Just one accident causes a backlog of traffic for hours afterwards.



**HB-1195**

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 6:42:07 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/10/2021 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support HB1195!

**HB-1195**

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 8:19:18 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/10/2021 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Every other community on the island has access from multiple points into and out of their community. The Waianae Coast is extremely different in that manner in that we only have one road for ingress and egress. OMPO has had a secondary access road for our coast on their to-do list for over 25 years. At least five funded and separate studies have been done and concluded that a secondary access road is a necessity for our coast. However, the state department of transportation opines that funding is unavailable for this project, and has kicked the can down the road for several decades now. That same department has explained that a road of this caliber will cost them nearly their entire annual budget, if not more, to build.

The Waianae Coast has continually been treated like a second-class citizen. When one of multiple access points for the Winward coast was damaged several years ago, that road was funded with emergency repair money almost immediately. This would be the Pali highway, which was damaged at the tunnel area by a landslide. If other communities can be given funding for such large projects, yet have multiple points of ingress and egress to their communities already, why can our coast not be given the same consideration?

Our population has grown exponentially with the installation of many new DHHL communities, as well as a large influx of new residents to our coast. With that population growth, infrastructure has not been addressed properly, and a typical day's commute consists of a two hour, one-way drive from Waianae to Honolulu. Residents spend nearly 4 hours a day in their vehicle to get from home to work. This would never stand in other communities on the island, such as Hawaii Kai or Kahala. Why is it OK to treat residents of our coast in this manner? Why is it OK to not give us the same consideration for our tax dollars that other communities on this island receive? The short answer is that it is not acceptable

It is time to fund a secondary access road that will be built within the next decade for the Waianae Coast. It does not have to be elaborate. It does not have to be an engineering masterpiece. It simply needs to be functional and serviceable for residents to have an alternate means of getting on and off our coast in terms of commuting, for emergency purposes, and to have a route that is not coastal, as global warming and sea level rise impacts our island roadways. Fund it. Pass it. Build it. Enough wasting time with shelved studies and excuses.

I support the building and funding of a secondary access road to and from the Waianae Coast. It is needed. It is essential. There is no longer an excuse not to build it. The time to stop treating our residents like secondhand citizens is now.

**HB-1195**

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 8:32:31 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/10/2021 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

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**HB-1195**

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 7:40:09 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/10/2021 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a proud resident of Waianae and enjoy living in this beautiful part of Oahu. However, as each year passes, the amount of traffic to the Leeward side increases. I am in full support of HB1195 and humbly request for this measure to pass.

Mahalo,

Lani Untalan

**HB-1195**

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 8:08:26 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/10/2021 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

It is way past time that the residents and tax payers on the Waianae Coast get a Secondary Road. Stop the excuses, stop with the studys and actually do the work. We see YOU and see the lack of urgency for our community and we've had enough. Release the funds and build the road.

Natasha Boteilho

This testimony is written to the Chair, Vice Chair and the Board of Transportation Committee. My Name is Annette Ferris. I write this testimony ,because I could not be there in person, as I have been asked to return to work, during this crisis, of a pandemic that we are facing here in hawaii. I was Born and raised here almost 48 years now. I grew up in Nanakuli, and lived through the floods of 1978, as a little girl, I lived through Hurricane Iwa in Nov. 1982, and also Iniki in Sept. 1992. Since then there has been an influx of people who continue to frequent our coastline area, trying to “ Get a taste of the West side” or wanting to live in the” wild wild west”. It's crazy.

Our roads are taking a beating. Our infrastructure which is our basic underlying framework or features of our system, roads, hwys, and bridges are under assault down here. We still have no sidewalks in parts of our communities, children still walk through mud, and muddy water to catch the school bus to go to school, our older citizens still have to walk down the center of the road sometimes because of street flooding. And this is the 20th Century!!!

Our drainage systems don't seem to work properly, as our roadways are always flooded. And this is on a federal hwy system. And we are not even talking about the road widening construction project that was started in 2014, and never completed. Till today and it is what, 7 years of no action???

I find it very hard to believe that the Department of Transportation jumped to put Speed humps; which according to the coconut wireless now have become launch pads, in Nanakuli. All because Ed Warner- who was also the one to take away the crosswalks at the same location in Nanakuli; to begin with, decided that now, he needed raised crosswalks to prevent people from getting bang. However, just to let you know, there had been crosswalks at that location since I was a kid. Ed Warner - was the same guy who asked the department of transportation to take away those same cross walks after his kid got bang for j-walking at night with his back against the flow of traffic. Maybe it was to help his case that he told them to take away the crosswalk, but to me, something doesn't smell right. Considering this point, as to why I bring this up- The department of transportation jumped to build these speed bumps, while the whole coast suffers through bumper to bumper traffic every single day. How come they are not jumping to complete the road widening project started 7 years ago and not completed?

Since when did these speed humps become priority for this whole and entire coast line, when the widening project started 7 years ago never got finished.

We still have contra flow traffic, and our police officers who are supposed to be directing traffic sit in their cars, at cross streets and do whatever they want because no one can see them behind their dark tinted windows. Sure they are getting paid, but what are we as residents getting for it? Nothing Absolutely nothing. There is only 1 cop and he stands out-side the car and actually directs traffic at Piliokahi street. When he is working, traffic moves well but only at that light. The rest of the time, our community sucks wind biscuits.

And if there is an accident, we suck wind biscuits !!!! I have been stuck there several times. And that is just an Accident. Just a single two car accident. When there is a fatality... brah... good luck seeing your kids tonight!!! And if it's a major accident, don't even try to come home. Why ? because traffic goes on for miles, and miles. You get to go home every night, ok you a while collar worker, we have 80 to 90 percent of working blue collar workers. Sometimes they don't get to see their families because of traffic. Especially if they had to go to town, which is anything Past Ko'olina now. This bridge On Maipalaoa Street, what is going on with that? It is supposed to be nearly complete, and yet it is not. It is behind schedule, delays, and whatever else excuses. During the winter holiday, we were down to 1 lane going to Waianae. The traffic went on for miles... tried to call the department of



transportation office and no answer. The phone just rings and rings or tells you to leave a message recording... for no one to call you back. Frustration on this coast is running high. And we are not even discussing the what if situations that we need to prepare for.

We have asked, and asked, and asked for geeze from when I was a little girl. I remember my grandmother complaining about the traffic in Nanakuli and we didn't have half the traffic we have now. In the 1970's. I remember her asking about a secondary road, and back then, she was told not to worry, in an emergency situation we could access Kole-kole pass, well that road has fallen into disrepair and there doesn't seem to be any funds available. Yet, as a band aid solution we are supposed to have these emergency access roads along the coast. It does not work. We are still stuck on the coast.

There is no disaster preparedness, and road evacuation procedure currently in place. Why? And how I know... it is because no one knows who has the keys for any and all of the access emergency gates? It's like pulling teeth, to get somebody, anybody to open an access road, in an emergency situation. There have been several incidents where the flow of traffic could have been redirected, or alleviate through the coast line, to prevent a worsening situation but somebody in the department, whomever it is that holds the keys to all the access gates I either didn't wake up yet, could not be reached, or just ignored the calls for help. That is what it seems like it is in my opinion, that most of the people in my community are constantly ignored and are refused help and constantly given excuses-for lack of a better word.

Our community is constantly given bandaids, but no real solutions. It is overwhelming to me, that this committee would sit by and not allow Bill H.B.1195 to pass. My community has an overwhelming amount of hard working people, who may not be able to make it here today. But by no means, ladies and gentleman, does that mean we don't care about our area or our community. This Secondary road is vital to this community. It is a need; not a want like speed humps. This H.B.1195 is a critical need. According to the 2010 census bureau the community of Waianae has an estimated population of 13,000 people. Now that was taken in 2010. Our community has exploded since then. And it does not include the amount of visitors that we receive daily. Nor does that include the visitors that we receive during the week-ends. Now imagine a situation where we have a Hurricane Inikki, or a Hurricane Iwa where the roads were again a part of the ocean. With the Makaha bridge washed away. Just imagine the flooding, the Sand that had to be hauled away. Already during the winter swells Makaha beach washes away, it erodes. The dilapidated Makaha bridge, by Makaha beach, needs fresh repair. Which should have been done while most people were home during Covid- 19 shut down. All along the coast we need sidewalks, drainage, and repair work. This H.b.1195 will help to get it done. Thank you for your time,

Aloha,

Annette Ferris

**HB-1195**

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 8:45:46 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/10/2021 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I have lived at 84-636 Widemann St. Makaha since 1955. My recollections of the changes in traffic patterns along the Waianae Coast for the last 65 years are clear. The increase and congestion along a road following our beautiful shoreline is a daily concern . Any natural disaster ; every made-man traffic accident is cause for concern. The safety of the thousands who travel the roadway needs to be immediately addressed. After a Tsunami will be too late.

Please take action in the Affirmative to pass this bill as our community continues to be underserved.

Mahalo,

Sherry Evans

(808)729-4611