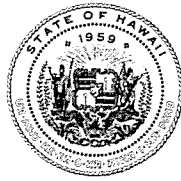


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF HAWAII



WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.  
CHAIRMAN  
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

JOSH GREEN  
LT. GOVERNOR  
STATE OF HAWAII

TYLER I. GOMES  
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN

**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS**

P. O. BOX 1879  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM J. AILA, JR, CHAIRMAN  
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION  
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
HEARING ON FEBRUARY 9, 2022 AT 10:00 AM VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

**HB 1403, RELATING TO AN ALTERNATIVE ROUTE  
SITE SELECTION SURVEY IN PUNA**

February 9, 2022

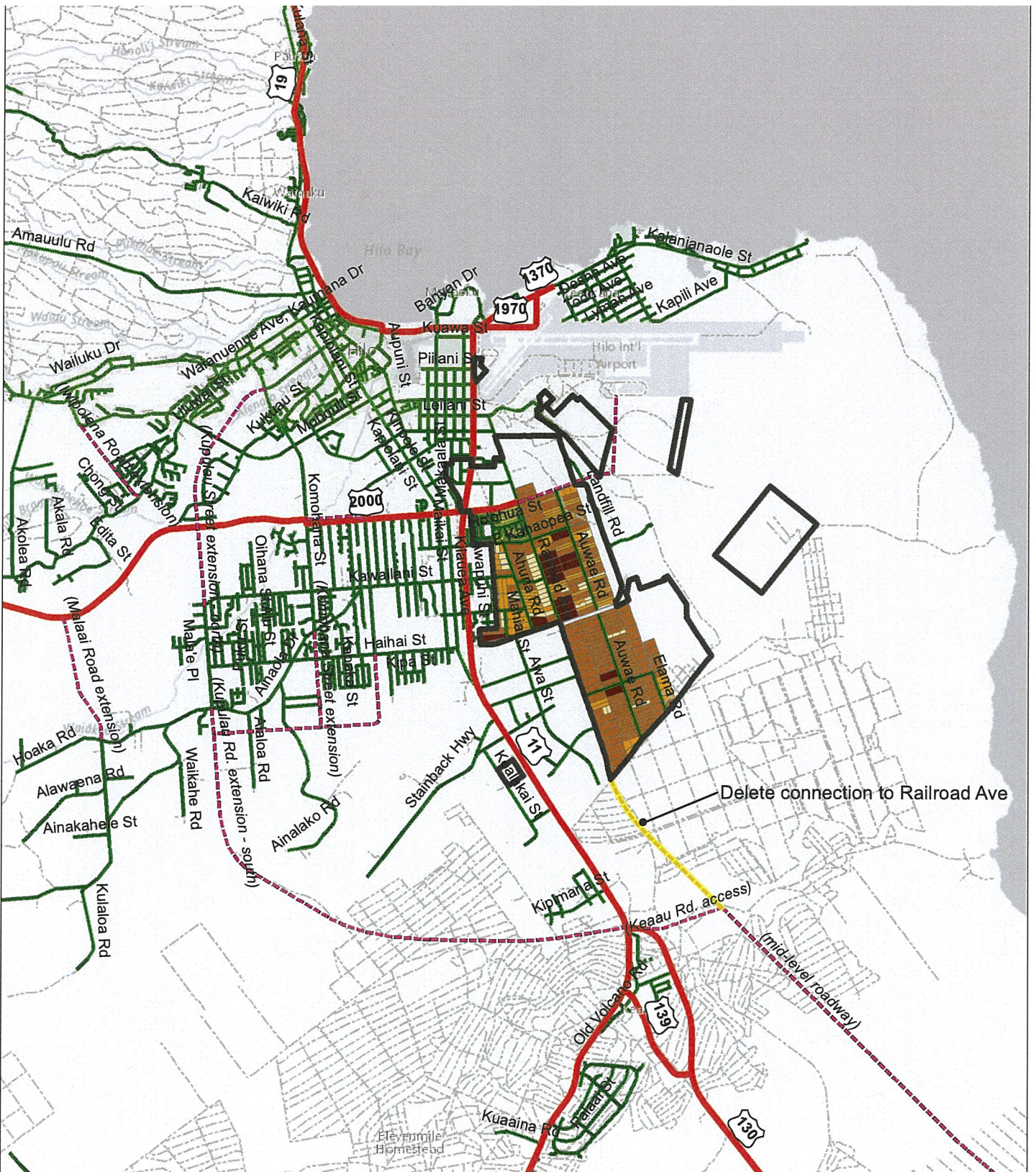
Aloha Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Ilagan, and members of the Committee:

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) would support this bill if the following amendment is made to Section 2(b) of the bill as follows:

(b) Any lands on the island of Hawaii owned by the State **excluding DHHL owned lands** or county of Hawaii may be considered in determining where to conduct site surveys.

While DHHL is supportive of the intent of the measure to relieve traffic congestion for Puna residents, **DHHL is strongly opposed to any consideration of a proposed by-pass route that would run through an existing DHHL homestead community.** With the adoption of the DHHL Panaewa Regional Plan in 2016, the Hawaiian Homes Commission took a position to oppose any proposed by-pass route through Rail Road Avenue. The utilization of Rail Road Avenue would unjustly burden Panaewa homestead lessees with additional traffic. The DHHL Panaewa Regional Plan did identify potential alternative routes that could alleviate traffic coming into Hilo from Puna and avoid adverse impacts to DHHL Panaewa Homestead lessees. A map of those alternative routes are enclosed for future consideration during the selection of a by-pass route. The proposed amendment to this legislation would address DHHL's concern.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.



DATE: 8/17/2016

**LEGEND**

- Planning Area
- Proposed GP Roads Amendment
- Proposed GP Collector Roads
- State Highways
- County Roads
- Other unimproved roads
- Residential\_Homestead\_Lots <0.5 acre
- Supplemental Ag Lots 1.000000 - 3.000000
- Supplemental Ag Lots 3.000001 - 5.000000
- Supplemental Ag Lots 5.000001 - 10.000000
- Supplemental Ag Lots 10.000001 - 12.500000

**FIGURE 15**  
**Existing and Proposed Roads**  
**in Relation to Lot Density**  
**Pana'ewa**  
**Regional Plan Update**

Department of Hawaiian Home Lands  
 North

Miles

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**  
P.O. BOX 150  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND  
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE  
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND  
MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION  
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

**WRITTEN ONLY**  
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
ON  
HOUSE BILL NO. 1403

**February 9, 2022**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**Room 423 and Videoconference**

RELATING TO AN ALTERNATE ROUTE SITE SELECTION SURVEY IN PUNA

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

House Bill No. 1403 requires the Department of Transportation, in collaboration with the County of Hawai'i, to conduct site surveys on the island of Hawai'i to identify the most suitable locations for an alternate route in Puna below Highway 130. The bill also appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds in FY 23 for the purposes of this measure.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and

- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

**HB-1403**

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 9:30:28 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Rachel Roper	Hawaii Department of Transportation	Support	Yes

Comments:

I am with the DOT and am available for comments.

**Maile Medeiros David**  
Council Chair  
Council District 6  
(Portion N. S. Kona/Ka'ū/Volcano)



Phone: (808) 323-4277  
Fax: (808) 329-4786  
Email: [maile.david@hawaiicounty.gov](mailto:maile.david@hawaiicounty.gov)

## HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

County of Hawai'i  
West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A  
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.  
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

February 8, 2022

Honorable Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair  
Honorable Greggor Illagan, Vice Chair  
Committee on Transportation  
Via Videoconference

Re: H.B. No. 1403 – Relating to An Alternate Route Site Selection Survey in Puna

Honorable Chair Aquino and Vice Chair Illagan:

On behalf of myself and as Councilmember representing the rural districts of South Kona, Ka'ū and Volcano Village (Council District 6), I express my strong support of HB 1403 relating to an alternate route site selection survey in Puna.

Due to the rapidly growing number of residents in Puna, as well as Puna being an area of income-challenged families, they typically rely on the transit system and nonmotorized modes of transportation. Highway 130 is the sole access between the communities and Hawai'i Belt Road. Since Highway 130 provides sole access to Puna, there is constant traffic congestion but more importantly it may result in delays of emergency services.

This measure will allow the department of transportation, in collaboration with the county of Hawai'i, to identify a location for an alternate route in Puna below Highway 130.

Mahalo a nui loa for your favorable consideration.

Very truly yours,

*Maile David*

Maile David, Council Member  
Council District 6, S. Kona, Ka'ū, and Volcano Village

**Mitchell D. Roth**  
Mayor



**Lee E. Lord**  
Managing Director

**Robert H. Command**  
Deputy Managing Director

**County of Hawai'i**  
**Office of the Mayor**

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2603 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • (808) 961-8211 • Fax (808) 961-6553  
KONA: 74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy., Bldg C • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740  
(808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

February 7, 2022

Chair, Rep. Henry J.C. Aquino  
Vice-Chair, Rep. Gregor Ilagan  
House Committee on Transportation  
Hawai'i State Legislature  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

**Subject: H.B. 1403 RELATING TO AN ALTERNATIVE ROUTE SITE SELECTION SURVEY IN PUNA**  
**Hearing Date: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.**  
**Time/Place of Hearing: Via Video Conference**  
**Conference Room 423**

Aloha Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Ilagan, and committee members;

On behalf of the County of Hawai'i, I am expressing my support for HB 1403 for fiscal year 2022-2023 to fund a site selection survey that will identify an alternative makai route from Puna to Hilo below Highway 130.

Puna's growth over the past 25 years compels state and county government to expeditiously address this glaring regional transportation problem. At the same time, the impact on residents and businesses along any proposed alternative route must be seriously considered. In order for a real solution to be identified, all of our community stakeholders must be engaged in this dialogue.

HB 1403 provides necessary funding to begin this process. Your sincerest consideration is greatly appreciated. Please feel free to contact me for any additional information.

Mahalo,

Mitchell D. Roth  
Mayor  
County of Hawai'i

**HB-1403**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 12:29:20 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Justine Kamelamela	Keaukaha-Pana'ewa Farmers Association - Member	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

My name is Justine Kamelamela and I am a DHHL homesteader in Pana'ewa and a member of the Keaukaha-Pana'ewa Farmers Association(KPFA). The Native Hawaiian communities in Pana'ewa and Keaukaha have been unjustly burdened with waste, industrial and commercial activity surrounding our communities that benefit Hawai'i Island.

This started with the taking of DHHL land and forced relocation of Native Hawaiians twice in order to build and then expand the airport. Now a significant number of our community members must endure the noise of airplanes and all the associated pollution.

The landfill was located adjacent to us for years. Our homes rattle with the noise from the air traffic and raceway park. Our communities have chemical facilities, a sewage plant and electric plant located near to and adjacent to our homes.

The Keaukaha Pana'ewa Farmers Association successfully challenged another waste facility being located within 1000 square feet of our homes and the spaceport facility.

To address cars speeding down Railroad Avenue through our community, we had the County install solar powered speed monitors.

Please understand that we support the intent of the HB 1403, however we will strongly oppose any consideration of a proposed by-pass route through the middle of our Pana'ewa Hawaiian Homestead community.

**KPFA, in partnership with the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, will support HB 1403 only if the following amendment is made to Section 2b of the bill as follows:**

**(b) Any lands on the island of Hawaii owned by the State [excluding DHHL owned lands] or county of Hawaii may be considered in determining where to conduct site surveys.**

With the adoption of the DHHL Panaewa Regional Plan in 2016, the Hawaiian Homes Commission took a position to oppose any proposed by-pass route through Railroad



Avenue. The utilization of Railroad Avenue would unjustly burden our Pana'ewa homestead lessees with additional traffic.

The DHHL Panaewa Regional Plan identified potential alternative routes that could alleviate traffic coming into Hilo from Puna and avoid adverse impacts to DHHL Panaewa Homestead lessees.

The foregoing amendment to HB 1403 will address our serious concerns. Our community needs your support. We need to 'right the wrongs' of the State and County of Hawai'i locating hazardous sites, toxic facilities and activities that generate noise near our Native Hawaiian communities.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Justine Kamelamela

Pana'aewa DHHL Homesteader



Email: [communications@ulupono.com](mailto:communications@ulupono.com)

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
Wednesday, February 9, 2022 — 10:00 a.m.

**Ulupono Initiative supports the intent of HB 1403, Relating to an Alternative Route Site Selection Survey in Puna.**

Dear Chair Aquino and Members of the Committee:

My name is Micah Munekata, and I am the Director of Government Affairs at Ulupono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-focused impact investment firm that strives to improve quality of life throughout the islands by helping our communities become more resilient and self-sufficient through locally produced food; renewable energy and clean transportation; and better management of freshwater and waste.

**Ulupono supports the intent of HB 1403**, which requires the Department of Transportation, in collaboration with the County of Hawai'i, to conduct site surveys on the island of Hawai'i to identify the most suitable location for an alternate route in Puna below Highway 130.

However, we want to caution that building a new road may not solve for congestion nor help the cited low-income and/or transit-dependent populations. For example, extensive nationwide research demonstrates that widenings and new highways do not solve for congestion over the longer term. In its 2020 *The Congestion Con* report, national transportation advocacy group, Transportation for America, demonstrated that over the past 20 years, no region anywhere in the country has been able to build itself (i.e., widen or build new roads) out of congestion, regardless of population trends or road building activity. The same is true for Honolulu, where congestion has been up 166 percent since 1993 against a population growth rate of 23 percent.<sup>1</sup>

Ignoring this research may also exacerbate our climate and transportation challenges. It is more likely that this project would induce more miles driven, if care is not paid to ensuring that we are moving more people, and not just vehicles. In fact, some research indicates that such equivalent expansion on Maui could result in an additional 58-86 million more miles driven, the equivalent of 6,700 new passenger cars on the road.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://t4america.org/maps-tools/congestion-con/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://shift.rmi.org/>

This does not negate the need for additional access to and from Puna, but rather ensures that if significant investments are made, they solve to provide true improved access to opportunity and housing, rather than just moving vehicles. We urge the Committee to ensure the site surveys take such factors into consideration; for example, transit demand, bus access or even a rapid bus lane, depending on the specific community needs and input.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata  
Director of Government Affairs

**Kūpuna for the Mo'opuna**  
*committed to the well-being of Hawai'i for the next generations to come*  
kupuna4moopuna@gmail.com



**HB 1403 - RELATING TO AN ALTERNATE ROUTE SITE SELECTION SURVEY IN PUNA**  
**OPPOSE**

House Committee on Transportation 2/9/2022 @ 10a

We, Kūpuna for the Mo'opuna, Hawaiian homestead farmers from Pana'ewa, Hawai'i,  
**OPPOSE HB 1403.**

We stand in agreement with our Keaukaha Pana'ewa Farmers Association and support the following amendment to HB 1403:

(b) Any lands on the island of Hawaii owned by the State **[excluding DHHL owned lands]** or county of Hawaii may be considered in determining where to conduct site surveys.

With family and friends who live in Puna, we do support an alternate route to Hilo. **Please consider the alternate route outlined in the Pana'ewa Regional Plan adopted in 2016 by the Hawaiian Homes Commission.** We will continue to strongly oppose us Hawaiian homestead beneficiaries again being dumped on with yet another dangerous stressor, this time with a possible connector running right through our homes, exacerbating speeding vehicular traffic in our community. Government needs to figure out connectivity needs that will benefit the entire island without once again putting the burden on Hawaiian homesteaders.

The burden of commercial, industrial, and military activity dumped on us Hawaiian Homes Commission Act beneficiaries of Pana'ewa and Keaukaha by county, state, and federal entities continues to plague us with negative impacts on our health and well-being. Pana'ewa homesteaders are already suffocating on all sides; the airport, the landfill, the drag strip, the shooting range, numerous commercial/heavy industrial businesses, and many government facilities, including the KMR where live-fire training occurs. Green areas are hideaways for the homeless and for those afflicted with substance abuse. Pana'ewa does not need another stressor.

Again, **please amend HB 1403 as offered above.**

Mahalo,

Kūpuna for the Mo'opuna - Pana'ewa, Hawai'i

*Ua mau ke ea o ka 'āina i ka pono!*

## ilagan2 - Nicole

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**From:** Rep. Greggor Ilagan  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 8, 2022 10:58 AM  
**To:** ilagan2 - Nicole  
**Subject:** FW: Urgent: Testimony Needed Today

---

**From:** Sacred Heart Church Pahoā <shpahoā@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 8, 2022 8:19 AM  
**To:** Greggor Ilagan <aloha@repilagan.com>  
**Subject:** Re: Urgent: Testimony Needed Today

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Morning Greggor,

Yes, I agree to the proposals of HB1403, HB1485, HB1411. Highway 130 is in great need of an alternate route and a better system to keep litter off of the highway. And, I believe that those signatures will help make transferring of ownership of vehicles transactions move forward smoothly.

Bernice K. Walker

On Mon, Feb 7, 2022 at 11:40 AM Greggor Ilagan <[aloha@repilagan.com](mailto:aloha@repilagan.com)> wrote:



*February 7, 2022*

**Aloha Bernice,**

We need your testimony for HB1403, HB1485, HB1411, now. Please submit it by 10:00AM, Tuesday, February 8, 2022, however, Late testimony will be accepted until committee votes.

Transportation Committee on Wednesday, February 9, 2022 at 10:00AM: Urgent your testimony is needed. On-Time Testimony due by 10:00am February 8, 2022

- **HB1403:** Relating to an Alternate Route Site Selection Survey in Puna: Requires the Department of Transportation, in collaboration with the county of Hawaii, to conduct site surveys on the island of Hawaii to identify the most suitable location for an alternate route in Puna below Highway 130. Appropriates funds.
- **HB1485:** Relating To Litter Control: Requires the Department of Transportation to amend the Adopt-a-Highway program to reduce the minimum number of years a program participant must agree to clean up litter on a highway

**HB-1403**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 3:13:44 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Todd Reilly Sr	Nanawale BOD	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha

Puna growth demands that an alternate route be made available. During normal day there is only about 1 1/2 hours when the trip to Hilo is not delayed at least 20 minutes to 1 hour. Expected growth requires another route from Puna. Please approve this measure and begin the long over due alternative routing

Mahalo

Todd Reilly Sr

**HB-1403**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 9:18:04 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Bridgit Bales	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Strongly oppose this Bill. DHHL-owned lands MUST BE EXCLUDED. No alternate route through DHHL owned lands!

**HB-1403**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 9:35:22 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Julia Lindbergh	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To whom it concerns,

YES! YES! and YES! I am in favor of a survey AND the creation of an alternate route from PUNA to Hilo. This is a MAJOR undertaking that needs to be done. With over 22,000 cars travelling from Puna to Hilo and BACK on a daily basis, a feasible alternative route is badly needed. For the long time residents of PUNA and our many subdivisions this will be a difficult task but I don't see any other way around this issue..And of course this is especially needed for emergency purposes to get to Hilo Medical Center. In the future there will be a hospital in Puna but until then we need to accommodate our citizenry with safety and ease in our travels. MINE included! YES count me IN FAVOR of Representative Ilagan's Bill.

Thank you for listening

Sincerely

Julia Lindbergh, RN



**HB-1403**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 10:04:06 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Robert Douglas	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The Native Hawaiian communities in Pana'ewa and Keaukaha been unjustly burdened with waste, industrial and commercial activity surrounding our communities that benefit Hawai'i Island.

This started with the taking of DHHL land and forced relocation of Native Hawaiians twice in order to build and then expand the airport. Now a significant number of our community members must endure the noise of airplanes and all the associated pollution.

The land fill was located adjacent to us for years. Our homes rattle with the noise from the raceway park. Our communities have chemical facilities, a sewage plant, electric plant etc etc located near to and adjacent to our homes.

The Keaukaha Pana'ewa Farmers Association successfully challenged another waste facility being located within 1000 square feet of our homes and the spaceport facility.

To address cars speeding down Railroad through our community, we had the County install solar powered speed monitors.

Please understand that we support the intent of the HB 1403, however we will strongly oppose any consideration of a proposed by-pass route through the middle of our Pana'ewa Hawaiian Homestead community.

If the bill goes forward it must be amended.

(b) Any lands on the island of Hawaii owned by the State [excluding DHHL owned lands] or county of Hawaii may be considered in determining where to conduct site surveys.

**HB-1403**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 10:06:30 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nako'o Warrington	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

As a beneficiary of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act living in Pana'ewa, I continue to stand opposed to the consideration of Railroad Avenue in Pana'ewa on DHHL lands being part of an alternate route from Puna into Hilo.

Our Pana'ewa community has spoken loud and clear: NO to a connector route through our home!

I support the intent of HB 1403 as I have 'ohana and hoaaloha who need an alternate route from Puna into Hilo. Our Pana'ewa Regional Plan 2016 includes an alternate Puna-Hilo route, a plan that was offered to anyone who would listen. Start there.

I will support HB 1403 only if the following amendment is made to Section 2b of the bill as follows:

(b) Any lands on the island of Hawaii owned by the State [**excluding DHHL owned lands**] or county of Hawaii may be considered in determining where to conduct site surveys.

Mahalo nui for considering my testimony,

Nāko'o Warrington, Pana'ewa

**HB-1403**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 10:51:59 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Namaka	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Aquino and Vice Chair Illagan and members of the House Committee on Transportation,

I oppose HB1403 as written and in support if the following amendment is made to Section 2b of the bill as follows:

(b) Any lands on the island of Hawaii owned by the State **[excluding DHHL owned lands]** or county of Hawaii may be considered in determining where to conduct site surveys.

Mahalo

**HB-1403**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 11:56:36 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Dustin Swan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Lower Puna is in desperate need of an alternate route for vehicle traffic to reduce the strain on Highway 130. With the increase in population density from new homes and the severely undersized roundabout installed on the highway at Ainaloa Boulevard, the current route can no longer support the district.

**HB-1403**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 12:41:56 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
bob ernst	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

HAWAII HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE HEARING ON HB1403 - PMAR

Aloha Chair Aquino,

Aloha Vice Chair Iligan,

Aloha Committee Members Clark, Nakamura, Hashimoto, Takumi, Kitagawa, Matsumoto and LoPresti,

PMAR, Puna Makai Alternate Route, has been talked about for decades, has been needed for decades yet to date the PMAR can get kicked down the Alternate Route and the constituents of Puna Makai and the constituents of the State of Hawaii and the visitors to Hawaii nei suffer with insufficient access to Puna Makai, a lack of alternative access that is dangerous and wasteful due to traffic congestion and no other way into or out of Puna Makai.

It is way past time to begin the planning and to ultimately with that planning designate a route for PMAR.

The PMAR issue will not go away until it is addressed and with the existing and potential growth of the Puna Makai area, the safety and capacity of PMAR has and will continue to become more necessary.

Mahalo for your support and vote for HB1403 PMAR, a just and needed Bill for the people of all Hawaii nei, residents and visitors alike,

Bob Ernst

Puna property owner and prospective PMAR user.

**HB-1403**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 1:30:54 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Franny Kinslow Brewer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

as a 20 year resident of Puna, I have watched our district grow at an exponential (and sometimes alarming!) rate. We have very limited road connectivity throughout much of the district, and the conditions currently are often unsafe due to the high volume of traffic on the roads at certain hours of the day. The influx of new residents to Puna since the beginning of the pandemic has been astonishing. Over the last two years, I have noticed that our new "rush hour" for traffic flowing out of Hilo into Puna now starts around 2:30 pm and continues until about 7:30 pm.

Accidents regularly cause delays of 2, 3, or more hours. Just recently, we were unable to get home from dinner at a friend's house, leaving our pre-teen daughter home alone until 2 am, because we were unable to pass through the site of a serious accident while the road was closed for 6 hours. Without work to develop alternate routes in Puna, we will continue to see many accidents caused by impatient or tired drivers, with no options left for our many commuting residents.

Please pass the bill, and I hope it is the first of many that allows for better flow of traffic in Puna.

(Please also include funding to get rid of all of the albizia trees along the route as well).

Aloha.



**HB-1403**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 2:27:54 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Paul A Wheelless	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill. We as a people who at all times need to be a people that work together at all times. If the State will be working on the public highway system in each County should and must work together and keep each other informed about the work being done. The citizens will have better confidence in their leaders if the leaders work as one unit for the benefit of the people.

**HB-1403**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 2:30:51 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Sally Ancheta	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a resident of Hilo and former resident of lower Puna, it is impative we have alternative roads for access in and out of lower Puna. A district the size of Oahu needs to have more than one route for residents, visitors and emergency responders to use. We need to build infrstructure to support the needs of this growing and diverse community and to serve the many communities who live, work, learn and play in lower Puna.

**HB-1403**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 2:46:52 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Gerard Silva	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We need this road 30 years ago. That how far behind you people are.

**HB-1403**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 3:10:41 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Lorn Douglas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

After living through the Fissure 8 event with lava erupting through cracks in roads and toxic sulphuric gases bubbling out of other roads I support a dirveable road in case Hwy 130 is threatened or covered with lava. Your anticipated support is appreciated.

Lorn DOuglas, Lower Puna

**HB-1403**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 4:14:43 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Daniel Levy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

An alternative route would save us lots of time and make Hilo more accessible

**HB-1485**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 6:49:57 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Tiffany Edwards Hunt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am 100% supportive of this measure and any measure introduced by our Puna legislators to help us try and get an alternative route established in Lower Puna. This Puna Makai Alternative Route has been discussed for years, and very little has been actually been done to make this happen. Meanwhile, Puna just continues to grow and get more congested. We officially have one road into and out of Lower Puna and the travel time between my home in Hawaiian Paradise Park and Kea`au where I work has gotten RIDICULOUS. So many people are commuting from Puna to Hilo that what used to be a 15-minute drive for me can sometimes take double or triple the time, depending upon the time we leave our home in the morning. We have got to get something in the works, knowing that Puna is one of the last affordable places to live in the islands and more and more people are choosing Puna from other islands and the U.S. continent. We just quite simply have got to be thinking ahead. Please do not allow yourselves to be pressured by Shipman Estate or DHHL that's going to try and poo poo any of us Puna people traversing their lands. You must go John Stuart Mill on this one and think about the greater good here. We really need you to think about how Puna is about the size of Oahu and we are dominated by private subdivisions with substandard roads. Every single one of those people living in all those private subdivisions in Lower Puna are coming out onto Highway 130. I sincerely dread the thought of having a medical emergency and being in an ambulance, hoping the ambulance can get through all that congestion to get me in to Hilo to the hospital. It's a nightmare scenario. We have got to hit this one head on, and stop leaving yesterday's problems for tomorrow. I swear, if we would have started working on this five or even 10 years ago, we would be driving on that route by now. If any one of you question whether or not a PMAR is needed, please join us on our morning commute to Kea`au and maybe even just keep on driving down the road and see the stop-and-go traffic on the Panaewa stretch, just after Highway 130 meets up with Highway 11. Please think long term when you are making your decisions. Don't allow Goliath try and persuade you that this is not a good idea. We the people need you to see us little people out here in Puna, trying to get to work, only to be in misery, stop-and-go traffic, not seeing any hope of another route, another option. Please remember that this is the same area that got completely worked over by the Kilauea lava flow in 2018. If you cannot imagine yourself in the ambulance, imagine trying to flee a community that is being inundated by lava or a tsunami. With one way in and one way out? Please help us. Thanks so much for your consideration of my testimony. I'm willing to jump on a video call to drive my points home. I'm willing to drive legislators around Puna, whatever it takes to convince you that the PMAR is a critical need for lower Puna. I beg of you to make this a priority like Greggor Ilagan has. Please, please, please. There is a long road ahead of us, even after this bill. Please just get us going with a look at what would be the most viable route. I sincerely beg of you, for our

children's sake. Our children will be the ones who will be driving on this road envisioned. We all know how long this stuff takes. Please think long term. Hopefully you understand how important I think this matter is. My number is (808) 938-8592. Call or text me anytime. Aloha, Tiffany Edwards Hunt, Hawaiian Paradise Park, HI

Testimony on HB1403 study for alternative route to Hwy 130

Mr. Chairman and Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB1403 which requires a survey to be conducted for an alternate route to Hwy130 in case of emergency. We have to have another way out of Puna if there is weather or geologic crisis. If we don't, we are likely to have loss of life.

Please don't leave us stranded.

Mahalo for your support of this first step for safety.

Renee Rabb

Keaau, HI 96749



**HB-1403**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 7:38:35 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Barbara Cigainero	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Mr. Chairman and Member,

I recently attended numerous Town Hall meetings called by Rep. Greggor Ilagan. The development of an alternate route to Hwy 130 was the number one issue identified by attendees to these Town Hall meetings. Unfortunately, there are numerous situations that make this issue of vital importance to the communities that use Hwy 130 to move between neighborhoods in the Puna Region and Hilo: lava flows that could cut-off access to Hwy 130, disasters such as hurricanes, earthquakes and tsunamis to mention the obvious.

I live in a very large subdivision called Hawaiian Paradise Park. It takes anywhere from 30-90 minutes to just get out of this subdivision in the morning during work commute. Then you still have to deal with the transport to your destination. You have only accomplished the great feat of getting out of the subdivision. I cannot imagine the gridlock that would be encountered if an evacuation order was given. This is a very dangerous situation that is probably a question of when it will happen, not if it will happen. Under the current situation, it is extremely probable that people will become stranded and unable to get to safe locations. Let's not wait until lives are lost.

HB 1403 would provide for the Department of Transportation to work with the County of Hawaii to conduct site surveys to identify suitable locations for an alternate route from communities in the Puna Region to Hilo.

Please support this important first step to ensure safety during emergency situations. Mahalo.

Barbara Cigainero

Keaau, HI 96749

**HB-1403**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 7:57:48 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Lawrence Oberman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We have long needed an improved road system in Puna. Previous studies should be **referenced** in this study but what we really need is a commitment to build a safe highway. Highway 130 is built to late 1950's or 1960's standards. People are dying because of this poor highway design.

**HB-1403**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 8:28:22 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Kevin Kushel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly and enthusiastically endorse HB1403. As a survivor of the Kiluea lava inundation in 2018, I can't express the enough the stress there was evacuating out of Kapoho in an effort to reach Hilo for safety. It is imperative this study be conducted for the safety and well-being of the entire community.

**HB-1403**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 9:16:56 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Terrance Crowley	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

We oppose HB1403 as written, but are in support if the following amendment is made to Section 2b of the bill as follows:

(b) Any lands on the island of Hawaii owned by the State **[excluding DHHL owned lands]** or county of Hawaii may be considered in determining where to conduct site surveys.

**HB-1403**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 9:28:14 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Mrs Elizabethanne Masaoka	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB 1403 as it is written.

I will support HB 1403 if the following amendment is made to Section 2b of this bill as follows:

( b) Any lands on the island of Hawaii owned by the State [ excluding DHHL owned lands ] or county of Hawaii may be considered in determining where to conduct site surveys.

Puna needs an alternative route to Hilo. We agree. Railroad as a connection point for that alternate route, absolutely not! Our DHHL Panaewa community has had more than its "share" of industry/development surrounding us, for years. Enough! We don't need a highway coming thru our community.

Mahalo for hearing and listening to our voices.

**HB-1403**

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 6:49:19 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

**HB-1403**

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 7:58:17 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Allen Bartolome	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We need an alternative route below highway 130. I support this bill

February 7, 2022

RE: Written testimony in support with exclusions

[HB 1403 Status](#)

RELATING TO AN ALTERNATE ROUTE SITE SELECTION SURVEY IN PUNA.

Requires the department of transportation, in collaboration with the county of Hawaii, to conduct site surveys on the island of Hawaii to identify the most suitable location for an alternate route in Puna below Highway 130. Appropriates funds.

Ke Welina mai,

I am Leila Kealoha and I am a native Hawaiian born and raised in lower Puna. I am writing in regards to HB 1403: Relating to an alternate route site selection survey in Puna. I grew up with only passing cars maybe 1-3 times between Pahoia and Keaau. I am not happy with what it has become. I have chosen my profession to work and live in lower Puna and not have to pass Pahoia town or even want to go to Keaau or Hilo because of the traffic. The traffic is horrendous and it is a major safety hazard in the event of any natural disaster. With this being said, I do support a survey being conducted to look for alternative routes leading out of Puna into Hilo. Although I support this, I do not support this route being led into Pana'ewa Hawaiian Homesteads, railroad avenue. There are other alternatives.

I currently live in Maku'u Hawaiian Homesteads and I do appreciate the serenity that it has to offer. I would never want to see a thoroughfare that leads through any of our homesteads.

If you are not aware, the Native Hawaiian communities in Pana'ewa and Keaukaha have been unjustly burdened with waste, industrial and commercial activity surrounding their communities that benefit Hawai'i Island.

This started with the taking of DHHL land and forced relocation of Native Hawaiians twice in order to build and then expand the airport. Now a significant number of their community members must endure the noise of airplanes and all the associated pollution.

The landfill was located adjacent to them for years. Their homes rattle with the noise from the raceway park. Their communities have chemical facilities, a sewage plant, electric plant etc etc located near to and adjacent to Their homes.

The Keaukaha Pana'ewa Farmers Association successfully challenged another waste facility being located within 1000 square feet of their homes and the spaceport facility.

To address cars speeding down Railroad avenue through their community, they had the County install solar powered speed monitors.



Please understand that we support the intent of the HB 1403, however we will **strongly oppose any consideration of a proposed by-pass route through the middle of the Pana'ewa Hawaiian Homestead community.**

KPFA, in partnership with the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, will support HB 1403 only if the following amendment is made to Section 2b of the bill as follows:

(b) Any lands on the island of Hawaii owned by the State **[excluding DHHL owned lands]** or county of Hawaii may be considered in determining where to conduct site surveys.

With the adoption of the DHHL Panaewa Regional Plan in 2016, the Hawaiian Homes Commission took a position to oppose any proposed by-pass route through Railroad Avenue. The utilization of Railroad Avenue would unjustly burden the Pana'ewa homestead lessees with additional traffic.

The DHHL Panaewa Regional Plan identified potential alternative routes that could alleviate traffic coming into Hilo from Puna and avoid adverse impacts to DHHL Panaewa Homestead lessees.

The foregoing amendment to HB 1403 will address our serious concerns. We need to 'right the wrongs' of the State and County of Hawai'i locating hazardous sites, toxic facilities and activities that generate noise near our Native Hawaiian communities.

I appreciate your time, consideration and support for our Hawaiian Homestead communities and the people who traverse the roads of Puna. Please hear our concerns and find the "Right" solution for us all.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Leila Kealoha

(808) 937-7991

[kealohaainallc@gmail.com](mailto:kealohaainallc@gmail.com)

**HB-1403**

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 8:18:27 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Maki Morinoue	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha

My name is Maki Morinoue and I am from Holualoa on the Big Island.

Puna is the fastest growing area in Hawai`i and it is very shorsided that it only has one road in and out. The amount of commuters living there as it is the few areas around the island that is affordable has pushed our working class to drive long distance to work in Hilo, Kona or Waikoloa. When they come home it looks like traffic in LA... The community in Puna is not prepared for catastrophic events and emergencies even when living in an active Lava zone!

This bill is silly that it is asking for collaboration. Our community had challenges addressing safe routs to school in Holualoa so we know first hand around not taking responsibility and saying it's DOE's responsibility or that's County's responsibility and it continued to be a stale mate issue for us around safe routs to school for our kids. I find the adults in charge at times childish and spineless not take responsibility and allow a dangerous situation continue and not quickly *collaborate for the safety of ALL* and to work together to create wonderful things in our community.

This bill requires the department of transportation, in collaboration with the County of Hawaii, to conduct site surveys on the island of Hawaii to identify the most suitable location for an alternate route in Puna below Highway 130. Please get this done.

Help Puna grow with a bigger vision and ensure they have safe emergency routs and the roadways they really desperately need.

Mahalo  
Maki Morinoue  
Holualoa  
96725

**HB-1403**

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 8:34:10 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Sara Steiner	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Legislators:

I don't understand the problem here. For the entire history of Statehood and even earlier, Lower Puna had 2 routes to Hilo, Beach Road and Railroad. Somehow in the 1980's Shipman Estates decided to block the public from using their public roads.

Because of climate change, Beach Road restoration may not be feasible. But for sure Railroad is - and the only thing you need to "study" is the alignment of it and condemnation if Shipman is unwilling to allow it.

The solution is easy, please repeat after me: Shipman Does Not Own Puna's Public Roads - Beach Road or Railroad.

Very Sincerely,

Sara Steiner

Pohoiki Road, Pahoia.

**HB-1403**

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 8:35:06 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Emeline Paterson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Long much needed. Critical during a natural disaster

**HB-1403**

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 8:43:44 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
jeanne wheeler	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Traffic has gotten excessive - an alternate route is sorely needed, please expedite! Mahalo, JW

**HB-1403**

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 9:11:09 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Nadia Ranne	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We need an alternate route in/out of Puna for many reasons including the health and safety of our residents. Mahalo for working on this.

**HB-1403**

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 9:18:36 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Heather Peck	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is something the community needs!

## ilagan2 - Nicole

---

**From:** Rep. Greggor Ilagan  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 8, 2022 10:57 AM  
**To:** ilagan2 - Nicole  
**Subject:** FW: Support of HB 1403

---

**From:** Bonnie Bee <recallbherenow@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 8, 2022 9:33 AM  
**To:** Rep. Greggor Ilagan <repilagan@capitol.hawaii.gov>  
**Subject:** Support of HB 1403

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8 February 2022 ~ 9:35 am

ALOHA Representative,

I support HB 1403

I've been a resident and BLESSED to live in Hawai'i Nei for nearly fifty (50) years.

Hey 130 has been EXTREMELY DANGEROUS since the 1970's.

First Responder's also DESERVE an alternative route between Hilo and Lower Puna.

The GRIDLOCK Traffic in Lower Puna is unacceptable; HB 1403 is a good beginning on addressing this decades old problem affecting thousands of taxpayers.

Hwy 130 - has been DANGEROUS and FRUSTRATING for ALL Travers.

One additional concern is DHHL's...

A Land Exchange for the proposals in  
HB 1403 for use of DHHL's Land(s) - compensation; please - for use of any Land(s) under the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands jurisdiction.

MAHALO Plenty for relief of the Traffic GRIDLOCK on Hwy 130.

MAHALO Plenty !!!

Sincerely Your's Truly,

Bonnie P. Bator and `Ohana



**HB-1403**

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 9:40:24 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Mark A. Koppel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Honorable House Members,

My name is Mark Koppel, P O Box 283, Hakalau, testifying in STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1403

The need for this bill is obvious. Puna is the largest populated area on Hawaii Island with only one way in and out. We came within several feet of losing all access in the 2018 eruption.

I missed a party for a dying friend because an accident had closed 130 for hours.

This cannot continue.

Please support HB1403.

Mark Koppel

**HB-1403**

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 9:50:08 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
janice palma-glennie	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

please support this bill which would help protect the land and people of Puna by finding the best way forward with needed funding sources.

mahalo and sincerely,

janice palma-glennie

kailua-kona

HB1403

Aloha Representatives,

I am testifying in support of HB1403 Puna Makai Alternate Route Bill.

As a resident of Hawaiian Paradise Park and the State Central Committee male delegate for Senate District Two, I would like to encourage you to consider passing this bill for the benefit of the Puna community.

Having an alternate route will improve the quality of life for the many families living in lower and upper Puna. They will no longer have to sit in traffic entering or leaving Puna. An alternate route will also alleviate the numerous bottle-necked areas along Highway 130. This will also alleviate traffic and will increase the response time of emergency vehicles and first responders. Not to mention it will also decrease the amount of traffic accidents along the current route.

I am in full support of this bill, given that the process is conducted with high regard for a more efficient and safe route. Whether it is ethically planned and bid upon. Every possible outcome and process should be considered so we are not dealing with disasters such as Kalani'ana'ole Ave in Hilo, Kilāuea Ave also in Hilo, or the roundabout fiasco on Ainaloa Drive. Infrastructure from other states that have larger populations and busier transit routes should be researched and considered in the planning process as well.

Mahalo Nui,

Michael Kekela

Testimony from Virginia Aste

HB 1403

I support HB1403 to fund a study to determine the best alternate route to Hilo from the Puna District. There are approximately 75,000 lots in the 23 subdivisions in Puna, a buildout population of over 200,000. Regardless of natural disasters or real estate prices, the population in Puna has increased about ten percent per year. We need to improve the existing Highway but it is time to plan for an additional alternative. Fund the study. Plan the alternative route!

**KELDEN B.A. WALTJEN**  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

**STEPHEN L. FRYE**  
FIRST DEPUTY  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



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**OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY**  
**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 1403**

A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING  
TO CRIMINAL COMPLAINTS

COMMITTEE ON  
TRANSPORTATION  
Representative Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair  
Representative Greggor Ilagan, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 9, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.  
Via Videoconference  
State Capitol Conference Room 423  
415 South Beretania Street

Honorable Chair Aquino, Vice-Chair Ilagan and Members of the Committee on transportation. The County of Hawai'i, Office of the Prosecuting Attorney submits the following testimony in support of House Bill 1403.

This bill was drafted to conduct site surveys on the island of Hawai'i to identify the most suitable location for an alternate route east or makai of Highway 130.

Highway 130 serves as the only route into lower Puna. With the continued development and growing population in area, comes unforeseen situations of traffic collisions and traffic fatalities. These situations result in closing of roads for hours at a time in order for law enforcement to conduct a thorough investigation resulting in individuals not being able to travel to and from their homes and a lag in emergency services.

With the district of Puna becoming one of the most developed districts in the state, a study for an alternative route will help the people of the island to commute to and from their homes, provide much needed infrastructure and access for residents, and improve overall quality of life.

The County of Hawai'i, Office of the Prosecuting Attorney remains committed to pursuing justice with integrity and commitment. For the foregoing reasons, the County of Hawai'i, Office of the Prosecuting Attorney Supports the passage of House Bill No. 1403. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

## ilagan2 - Nicole

---

**From:** Rep. Greggor Ilagan  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 8, 2022 10:57 AM  
**To:** ilagan2 - Nicole  
**Subject:** FW: Urgent: Testimony Needed Today

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**From:** jim lee <jimleew@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 8, 2022 9:37 AM  
**To:** Greggor Ilagan <aloha@repilagan.com>  
**Subject:** Re: Urgent: Testimony Needed Today

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Greggor:

Hope my testimonies will satisfied the needs of government interests.

Best wishes my friend,  
Jim

Ps: Keep up the good job!

On Tue, Feb 8, 2022, 9:33 AM jim lee <[jimleew@gmail.com](mailto:jimleew@gmail.com)> wrote:

HB 1411 Transferring:

Absolutely necessary requirement for vehicle ownership to fill out the proper ownership document of Sale or Transfer. There are many many Banned vehicle along the Hwy and in bushes & forest hidden. Patrol Police Officials can quickly access the owner's info and have it Tow Away under his or her expense. I think this a MUST do procedure if not tons of banned vehicles will be All over the place making our neighbor looking like a Homeless Shelter. They can make a home in Van, SUV, Station Wagon n live comfortably with Free Rent.

On Tue, Feb 8, 2022, 9:23 AM jim lee <[jimleew@gmail.com](mailto:jimleew@gmail.com)> wrote:

HB 1485 Highway Litter:

Is not acceptable to all drivers. Trash on Hwy 130 or anywhere is unsafe, unsanitary and not an acceptable public behavior. All parents should make this a clear demanding statement to all their kids. DOT should create Large Green HWY Sign posted warning drivers that Littering is Unlawful and Unsafe. "A Large Fine is Unforced".

On Tue, Feb 8, 2022, 9:15 AM jim lee <[jimleew@gmail.com](mailto:jimleew@gmail.com)> wrote:

HB 1403 Testimony:

In my opinion an alternative route in case of any emergency is essential for public safety n convenience to Hilo. Currently for example, if HPP have a forest fire many residents will died due to the traffic congestion that will occur. Railroad Road was suggested many years ago and I think it's probable the best road leading to town.

**HB-1403**

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 11:46:03 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Vivian S. Toellner	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Yes, Puna needs another road to alleviate congestion and provide emergency backup to this major growing community. Costs will only go up, act now. The old railroad path or red road - government road make the most sense. Just widening Hwy 130, does not give the alternate needed for major accidents and natural disasters (lava). Aloha

**HB-1403**

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 11:55:46 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Briana Rodrique	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill, we can do better than what we currently have. Everyone knows the infamous "Puna traffic".

Briana Rodrique

Kurtistown, HI



**HB-1403**

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 12:16:12 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Molly Murphy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Both upper and lower Puna needs alternative roads. We are the fastest-growing district in the state. The problem will only get worse. Just last week, there were so many accidents. Imagine seeing the jaws of life pulling crash victims out of a car on your way to work. When a fatality occurs, there are no alternate roads as the roads are closed for 3 or more hours. Every time I drive HWY 130, I am 'white-knuckled.' If there is an emergency like the 2018 lava flow or a natural disaster, we will all be stuck on the road with nowhere to go. It was a relief when Railroad was temporarily opened during the flow. Please consider alternate routes!

**HB-1403**

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 12:34:51 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Susan Bambara	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha - Please support the steps and surveys required to give Puna an alternate road out.

Indeed, the original Government roads of Railroad and Beach were used in the 1920's by the local population from Kalapana all the way in to Hilo, it was also used again by all population in wartime as well.

Please survey the Governmental laws and precedent right of ownership of those roads and how it is already established that those roads existed and need to exist again as a thoroughfare from Lower Puna in to Hilo. A survey of these legal precedents in regards to roads and access ways that have already been established in the past and should be restored would immediately serve the local population.

Give back the thoroughfare access of Railroad and Beach to the public as the roads they were and have already been established as being government roads (hence a portion of it called "GOVERNMENT ROAD") and thus it is understood, if surveyed by legal authorities, that per law, all governmentally established roads belong to the public IN PERPETUITY per the laws of that entity.

A survey of the law will prove those roads and that thoroughfare should be opened back up and paved now, even if wealthier home owners along those pathways would prefer to maintain little to no access to those roads already owned by the public.

With Puna being the fastest growing area in the State, along with it being an on-going area where lava events have occurred as recently as 2018 and will occur again, this road issue is a matter of subverting a human tragedy waiting to happen. During the 2018 Lava event, Highway 130 was at a standstill and there was an urgent need for more ways out of the lower Puna area during that emergency event. Combine a swelling population with another lava event and Puna MUST have an alternate route out in the case of that inevitable next event.

PLEASE SUPPORT Bill HB1403.

Thank you for hearing our plea for safety and helping to facilitate that safety.

**HB-1403**

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 12:50:45 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Dephlia Rackley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

If PGV goes off We need a way out of here!

**HB-1403**

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 1:00:06 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Dianna Kahler	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Population growth on this island will only continue to grow. Having only one way in & out of Puna has become a traffic nightmare and simply dangerous. Uncontrolled left turns, merging lanes, and more cars than infrastructure can handle. The roundabouts, though installed to help ease traffic, do not belong on a highway and are only making traffic worse as many people do not even know how to use them. Nor are the intersections big enough to truly make them useful. Create new infrastructure to ease the traffic and allow us to move safely through Puna.

**HB-1403**

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 2:34:42 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Dean Cevallos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**I am Dean Cevallos resident in the Puna district and work as the Principal of one of the schools affected by the traffic off of Hwy 130. With the growth in our area over the past 11 years and the need for not only road improvements but alternatives due to hurricanes, lava flows and increased usage, I would like to urge the legislature to approve the funding needed to complete a study for alternative routes that allow mauka and makai safety and security routes. This is a must for us to make sure our residents and for me my students safe travels both in a vehicle and if they decide to bike or walk our roads. I have traveled along our Hwy 130 with my bike and it is very dangerous even with the widening from Keaau to Shower Drive. The emergency shoulder is heavy with debris and not very wide. Thank goodness for the morning contraflow lane as without it our students would have to catch the bus by 4:30 AM to get to school on time. Our traffic that now goes through the subdivisions has created safety issues for the Keki on our subdivision roads to avoid the traffic jams that occur daily once the contra lane is pau. This is a long time coming and needs to be addressed as soon as possible as the movement onto our Island from other Islands and the mainland has not shown any signs of letting up. It is already a major issue and as the bill states has the most accidents in the state due to lack of infrastructure. Please consider allowing this funding to go through.**

**Mahalo**

**Dean Cevallos resident of Orchidland Estates and Principal Kea'au High School**

**HB-1403**

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 4:32:44 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Hazen komraus	Kalapana Seaview Estates Community Association	Support	No

Comments:

Lower Puna is subject to many situations that might predicate an evacuation. As the fastest growing part of the Island for over a decade the population is in desperate need of a safe egress in the case, AS HAS HAPPENED NUMEROUS TIMES, that Highway 130 is made not passable. (see lava flows and rain caused flooding) The large concentration of power lines along the route and the fact that it is the main surface street means one accident or downed line can block all evacuation.

I implore you, if not for logical and ethical reasons, but simply to save your own selves from what would be a massive PR fiasco if any lives were lost, to please enact another exit route from Lower Puna. Shipman can deal with it, Railroad property owners can deal with it. This is why eminent domain exists. Do the job, please.

Hazen Komraus

**HB-1403**

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 2:56:14 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Scott Forschler	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My wife and I moved to Puna a year ago, but have considered relocating to Hawaii much longer than that. We love the Puna area, but our greatest concern was that so many of the subdivisions lack interconnections, some are not terribly far apart or even parallel to each other with no connections, while others have just one very indirect connection. Hawaii Paradise Park we decided was best with 4 main access roads, though even these all lead to the same place: Highway 130. This is not just about easing traffic, but about providing alternative emergency roads as well as better access between the subdivisions and to Hilo for those living at some distance from 130. Highway 130 needs expansion, which might alleviate traffic congestion, but this alone would not address the other issues. These subdivisions were constructed without due allowance for traffic needs; providing alternative routes is long overdue, and will substantially improve the quality of life in Puna. We will be happy to pay more in taxes if this is needed to make our neighborhoods more accessible.

**HB-1403**

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 4:33:52 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Teresa Tremaglio	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I had to wait 15 minutes just to pull out onto the highway at the Shower rd stoplight out of HPP. it took me a little over an hour (left at 7:05 arrived 8:15) to get to the hospital which is 18 miles from my home.

The traffic circle at Ainaloa seems to have created a huge traffic jam coming into Pahoehoe from Hilo. Once I hit the area where traffic is at a standstill, I have waited 10 minutes just to get to the traffic circle because people use it as a stop sign not a means to keep traffic moving at a steady pace. Not only is this drive stressful and inconvenient, it is dangerous and possibly life threatening in an emergency situation. We need another road out of Puna.



**HB-1403**

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 7:32:32 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Shannon Matson	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee members,

Mahalo for considering this bill. I would strongly urge you to support this bill. I would also like to add that the Puna community is ready and in desperate need for numerous alternative routes of travel. I am more familiar with the county roads in limbo that need to be examined thoroughly but I know there are some in State jurisdiction as well. I know some of this has been examined and effort has been made in the past to examine this problem. Is there some way to access this information so we can move beyond more studies and into implementing some of these solutions? There are many examples of roads in upper Puna that could be opened right away connecting our subdivisions that would create a huge benefit to our community, especially during times of emergency. I hope that surveys can be done quickly and efficiently so we can get REAL action on alternative routes, which is long overdue.

Mahalo,

Shannon Matson

Ola'a, Hawaiian Acres Resident

**HB-1403**

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 7:34:14 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Katharine E Avery	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please Help us with the road situation it has gotten out of control!

For those of us who work and live on the other side of Paradise Park.

It is time the state makes Shipman give back to the island. The road

must go thru Paradise Park to Hilo. It can not cross hwy or It will cause more disasters. Mahalo for you quick attention to this fast growing problem. Aloha Kalia Avery

**HB-1403**

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 4:17:07 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Sandra Gomez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I live in Hawaiian Beaches, Pahoa, my youngest daughter attends Keau'u Middle School and since we live in Pahoa, no bus is available from our house to the school in Keau'u.

I drive her to school every morning, go back home, and then drive back to Keau'u to pick her up after school. I spend an average of 2.5 to 3 hours a day driving just to get her to school and back.

The drive is usually pretty decent, except from the roundabout in Ainaloa, to the light in Shower Drive, and vice versa. In this section is usually bumper to bumper. It is not only slow, but also dangerous.

An alternate Route would really help. Thank you

**HB-1403**

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 7:04:43 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Anne C Anderson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a medical social worker and I have many patients in Hawaiian Paradise Park and lower Puna. I frequently drive Highway 130 and I NEVER feel safe doing it. It is choked with traffic, almost all the time. People drive over the speed limit and there really is not anywhere to go if someone crossed the center line. I have some control over my schedule and am careful to schedule my visits to avoid certain times of the day when that road is ridiculously congested with traffic.

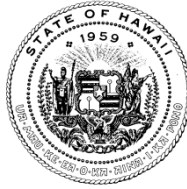
As I drive around all these neighborhoods - I see new houses popping up like mushrooms. The population in these areas is increasing, fast.

The infrastructure to support this fast growing population is definitely lacking and unsafe. I know roads are incredibly expensive, but they are necessary. I often wonder if a Railroad could be made into a road all the way to Keaau relieving some of the pressure on Highway 130. I also wonder about ways from Pahoia out to Highway 11.

I love the roundabouts. Turning left off Ainaloa in the past was taking my life into my hands. Now I feel safer.

I would love to see more bike lanes and sidewalks while we are at it. I feel unsafe driving the roads, I can't imagine what it must feel like as a pedestrian or bicyclist.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



TESTIMONY BY:

JADE T. BUTAY  
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors  
ROSS M. HIGASHI  
EDUARDO P. MANGLALLAN  
PATRICK H. MCCAIN  
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN

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

February 9, 2022  
10:00 A.M.  
State Capitol, Teleconference

**H.B. 1403**  
**RELATING TO AN ALTERNATE ROUTE SITE SELECTION SURVEY IN PUNA**

House Committee on Transportation

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H.B. 1403 requires the Department of Transportation (DOT), in collaboration with the County of Hawaii, to conduct site surveys on the island of Hawaii to identify the most suitable location for an alternate route in Puna below Highway 130 and appropriate funds..

The DOT offers **comments** to H.B. 1403. The DOT supports efforts to build the alternate route, but is not the appropriate agency to carry out the bill's requirements. The DOT defers to the County of Hawaii as they are the lead for this effort.

Within the Puna region, Keaau-Pahoa Road is on the State Highway System. This highway is high on the hierarchy of functional classification, the grouping of roadways according to the service they are intended to provide. Keaau-Pahoa Road is a principal arterial, provides regional mobility for high volumes of users, and provides connections between communities. Roadways such as Keaau-Pahoa Road that are high on the hierarchy of functional classification are typically state roadways.

Roadways such as the alternate route being developed and requested by this bill typically fall under County jurisdiction. These County roadways fall lower on the functional classification hierarchy and therefore typically serve lower volumes of users and focus less on regional movement.

All highways in the United States are functionally classified according to criteria established by the United States Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration. Functional classification is critical to ensuring the transportation system provides an efficient and effective network of streets and highways that provide regional and local mobility for users and is appropriate for the surrounding land use.

In addition, the focus areas of the new federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act indicate that additional capacity is a low priority for federal funding at this time. Current investment priorities include safety for all roadway users, resiliency, system preservation (including a focus on bridges), emerging technology (including a focus on clean energy and electric vehicles), transit, and equity.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**HB-1403**

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 7:47:51 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Mary Whispering Wind	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Lawmakers,

Please, pass HB1403l, which I SUPPORT.

The traffic bottleneck in Puna district wastes thousands of hours, and poses a dangers to folks living in the Puna district when the rode is blocked.

**HB-1403**

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 8:21:53 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Roselyn Riley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I have lived in the Hawaiian Shores community for 6 years, during this time our commute into Hilo or anywhere outside of Lower Puna has become increasingly difficult.

Our area is growing rapidly, and with the growth comes increased traffic. The amount of traffic on Highway 130 has reached a dangerous level, emergency vehicles have to run a gauntlet of traffic, especially during peak traffic. Traffic can back up for 2 miles during peak hours and take an hour to travel 25 miles into Hilo.

With only one ingress and egress our community is at risk during an emergency. Add an emergency evacuation to our already overwhelmed highway and lives will be endangered.

Please pass this bill to look at placement of additional roadways into the Lower Puna area.

Mahalo

Rose Riley



**HB-1403**

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 10:30:48 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
TEKI DAWN VICKERS	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Puna isn't asking for one 4 lane highway, we are demanding a second, safe, and efficient way to leave the area in an emergency- a paved 2 lane road down Gov't Beach road would serve just fine.

One way in and out of Puna is inconvenient now, and a logistics nightmare in emergency situations.