

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



TESTIMONY BY:

EDWIN H. SNIFFEN  
DIRECTOR  
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

Deputy Directors  
Nā Hope Luna Ho'okele  
DREANALEE K. KALILI  
TAMMY L. LEE  
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STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | KA 'OIHANA ALAKAU  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

February 8, 2024  
9:00 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 312 & Videoconference

**H.B. 2270**  
**RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

House Committee on Transportation

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The Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) provides **supports the intent** of this bill which seeks to establish a task force to develop and explore alternate routes into and out of the Waianae Coast, including through Kolekole Pass and opening Waianae Coast emergency access road, and provides the following comments.

The HDOT is already working to provide alternate access in and out of the Waianae Coast area through the use of existing State and City facilities. The HDOT is working with the Honolulu Fire Department and the City's Department of Emergency Management on wildfire mitigation and emergency access routes in Waianae and is adding an additional lane on Farrington Highway, between Helelua Street and Mohihi Street.

The HDOT is also collaborating with the Army and Navy on the feasibility of utilizing the road through Kolekole Pass to allow for emergency access. For these reasons, we believe that this bill is not needed at this time.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



**SUPPORT THE INTENT OF HB 2270  
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

House Committee on Transportation  
The Honorable Chris Todd, Chair  
The Honorable Darius K. Kila, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 8, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 312 & Videoconference  
Hawaii State Capitol; 415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Kila, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Military Affairs Council ("MAC") supports the intent of HB 2270 which establishes a task force to develop and explore alternate routes into and out of the Waianae Coast, including through Kolekole pass and opening Waianae Coast emergency access road.

The MAC was established in 1985 when the Chamber was appointed by the State to serve as the liaison to the military. The MAC advocates on behalf of Hawaii's military, and is comprised of business leaders, academic institutions, State and County officials, members of the CODEL, community leaders, labor unions and organizations and retired U.S. flag and general officers. The MAC works to support Hawaii's location as a strategic U.S. headquarters in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region which is crucial for U.S. national and homeland security.

The United States military is acutely aware of the challenges faced by the residents of Oahu's westside, particularly the limited access to roads and the current state of disrepair of the Kolekole Pass. We understand the critical role this pass plays as an emergency evacuation route and the potential it holds for easing traffic congestion in the area.

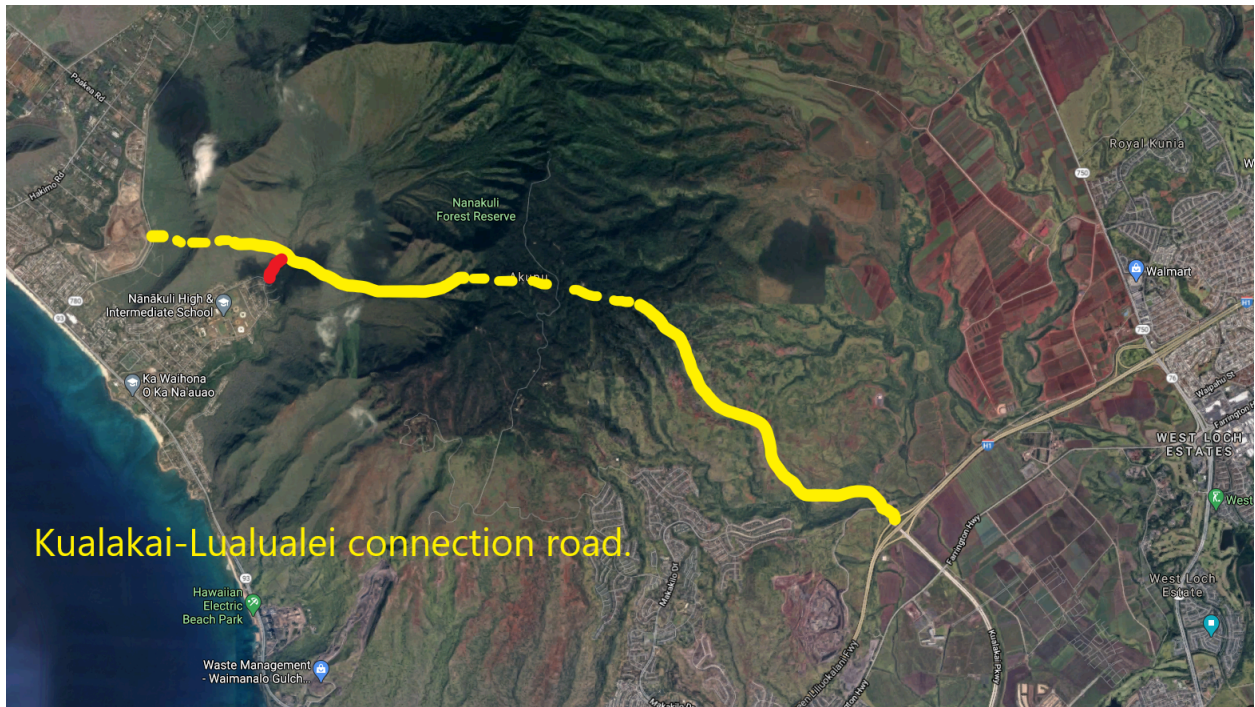
The MAC is dedicated to working collaboratively with our military partners, the local community, and the state to find a viable solution that addresses these concerns.

We believe that a similar approach from the Waianae Coast emergency access road system can be applied to the Kolekole Pass. By leveraging our collective resources, expertise, and commitment to public safety, we are confident that we can bring a similar solution.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

I stand in strong support of this bill. I've been a lifelong resident of the Waianae Coast and have borne witness to numerous events and daily traffic that has crippled the west side. I've also been fortunate enough that my father was able to have base access and use Kolekole pass when it was still open. While making Kolekole pass available to the public would be the quickest way to have an alternate road into and out of Waianae, it will likely receive the most pushback, almost exclusively from the Military. Other options should also be considered such as building a new road.

The picture shown is an alternate road I have been proposing for some time now. It is a rough estimate of a route that would connect Lualualei Naval Road and Kualakai Parkway. The line in yellow would be the rough location of the main road, the red would be a connection to Nanakuli Avenue. This would of course likely require tunneling through the mountains as well as construction on steep grades and a revamp of the intersection of Farrington Highway and Lualualei Naval Road for an increase in traffic.



**HB-2270**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:58:53 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/8/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Blake kalama	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

**HB-2270**

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:39:10 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/8/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Keith Kaaialii	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this proposed bill. The people of the west side of Oahu need alternative routes in and out of that area of the island to better facilitate the commute to and from work, as well as emergency crews to reach their destinations when timing is of high importance.

**HB-2270**

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 2:29:57 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/8/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Val Valdez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need other routes out of the waianae coast as soon as possible. Renovate and modify the existing KoleKole pass so that the public can use it.

**HB-2270**

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 5:08:33 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/8/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nancy Jones	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice-Chair Kila, and Honorable Committee Members:

I respectfully present this testimony to SUPPORT HB 2270, which would establish a Task Force to develop and explore alternate routes into and out of the Wai`anae Coast, including Kolekole Pass AND opening the Wai`anae Coast emergency access road on a regular, full-time basis.

We are long-time Wai`anae residents and remember – VIVIDLY – the lack of road access on or off the Leeward Coast for approximately 1 week following Hurricane Iniki in September 1992. As you may know, Farrington Highway is the ONLY regular access and egress route for all Leeward Coast communities. On numerous occasions, Farrington Highway has endured numerous shutdowns due to weather, catastrophic traffic accidents, major construction bridge/road work and flooding due to water main breaks – among other reasons. At present, the Wai`anae Coast Emergency Access Road consists of gated roads that can ONLY be opened when deemed necessary or when requested by the Honolulu Police Department. The only other access/egress route off the Wai`anae Coast is the Kolekole Pass road, which is STILL – after over a decade – undergoing repairs and can only be used by emergency vehicles in the event of catastrophic natural disasters. Given the severe lack of Leeward Coast road access, the critical alternate route that is the Wai`anae Coast Emergency Access Road MUST be made permanently available to Leeward Coast residents.

For all of the above reasons and to alleviate Leeward Coast traffic and improve public safety, I urge your Committee to please pass HB2270 (presumably an outgrowth of 2023’s HCR 174 / HR 179) with sufficient funding if necessary -- and to please ensure that these combined efforts commence to ideally in 2024 so that ALL Leeward Coast communities can benefit as soon as practical.

Mahalo for this opportunity to present this testimony supporting HB2270.

Nancy A. Jones

PO Box 1462, Wai`anae, HI 96792 / Email: nancyhydroalt@gmail.com

**HB-2270**

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 5:27:57 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/8/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zeb Jones	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice-Chair Kila, and Honorable Committee Members:

I respectfully present this testimony to SUPPORT HB 2270, which establishes a Task Force to develop and explore alternate routes into and out of the Wai`anae Coast, including Kolekole Pass AND opening the Wai`anae Coast emergency access road.

As a long-time Wai`anae resident, I and my family remember – VIVIDLY – the lack of road access on or off the Leeward Coast for approximately 1 week following Hurricane Iniki in September 1992. As you no doubt realize, Farrington Highway is the ONLY regular access and egress route for all Leeward Coast communities. On numerous occasions, Farrington Highway has endured numerous shutdowns due to weather, catastrophic traffic accidents, major construction bridge/road work and flooding due to water main breaks – among other reasons. At present, the Wai`anae Coast Emergency Access Road consists of gated roads that can ONLY be opened when deemed necessary or when requested by the Honolulu Police Department. The only other access/egress route off the Wai`anae Coast is the Kolekole Pass road, which is STILL – after over a decade – undergoing repairs and can only be used by emergency vehicles in the event of catastrophic natural disasters. Given the severe lack of Leeward Coast road access, the critical alternate route that is the Wai`anae Coast Emergency Access Road MUST be made permanently available to Leeward Coast residents.

For these key reasons and to reduce Leeward Coast traffic and improve public safety, I urge your Committee to please pass HB2270 (presumably an outgrowth of 2023’s HCR 174 / HR 179) with sufficient funding if necessary -- and to please ensure that these combined efforts commence to ideally in 2024 so that ALL Leeward Coast communities can benefit as soon as practical.

Mahalo for this opportunity to present this testimony supporting HB2270.

Zebuel “Zeb” C. Jones

PO Box 1462, Wai`anae, HI 96792 / Email: [zebbe3442@gmail.com](mailto:zebbe3442@gmail.com)



**HB-2270**

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 6:57:32 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/8/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kalani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this pass. It'll lighten up the traffic heading to the west side

**HB-2270**

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 7:29:00 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/8/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kathleen Moses Benson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear legislators,

Please vote in favor of this bill. The population of the west side has exploded and continues to grow, and the infrastructure to support the west side is inadequate. The traffic situation is intolerable, and no Rail system will help. In the 10 years I have lived in Kapolei, the traffic jams have gone from bad to worse. One problem in Makaha backs up traffic on H1 to Aiea. This is almost a daily occurrence. I challenge each of you to drive out to Makaha every afternoon during rush hours for a week. Extra points for driving from Makaha to town during morning rush hours! See for yourself if you think this bill is necessary.

If the west side faced a weather emergency or fire similar to Maui's wildfires, thousands of people would be trapped and die in their cars on Farrington Highway. Picture Lahaina in your mind as you vote in favor of this legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Moses Benson

**HB-2270**

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 2:48:51 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/8/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Charnelle	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Support!

KoleKole pass should be opened and used for the public. It needs a lot of work, but will definitely be a great alternate route to getting out and into Waianae. Please do everything that needs to be done to make this happen.

**HB-2270**

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 9:23:03 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/8/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alyson Hiapo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Alyson Hiapo a resident of the Wai‘anae moku for more than 30 years. I support HB2270.

As my community continues to attract more people purchasing homes and raising their families, more businesses, the military and visitors to his moku, our infrastructure is feeling the burden of this explosive growth. We need your kokua by supporting HB2270 so that our community can ensure the health, safety and well being of families, kupuna and our visitors during emergencies where an alternate route is needed when the 1 road in and out of Wai‘anae is not accessible or safe to use.

me ka ha‘aha‘a

**HB-2270**

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 9:26:24 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/8/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Daniel Bustamante	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Since there's only one road going to Waianae, opening up a different route will easily cut down traffic in Waianae. Even living on the edge of Kapolei, letting people have another route to take to get into Waianae would easily cut down traffic on the west side. People would have to wait for only 30 minutes instead of having to wait an hour and a half in Nanakuli just to get into Waianae. That's less gas being wasted, less harmful emissions going into the air, and less heat being sent off into the atmosphere.