



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543
February 24, 2023

The Honorable Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
House Committee on Finance
The Thirty-Second Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Representative Yamashita and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: HB600 HD1 RELATING TO SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL.

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **SUPPORTS HB600 HD1**, which establishes the safe routes to school advisory committee within the planning branch of the highways division of the department of transportation. Appropriates moneys. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

Establishing safer routes not only benefits keiki and kupuna but other members of the community who use ground transportation, including those with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities. Safe and accessible walkways allow those with I/DD to have more freedom of travel and promote independence. Safe routes also allow better integration and interaction between those with I/DD and members of the community. We implore you to pass this bill to ensure safe access for our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of HB600 HD1**.

Sincerely,

Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator



TESTIMONY BY:
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
DREANALEE K. KALILI
TAMMY L. LEE
ROBIN K. SHISHIDO
JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA

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

February 24, 2023
1:30 P.M.
State Capitol, Room 308, Videoconference

**H.B. 600, H.D. 1
RELATING TO SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL**

House Committee on Finance

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports the intent** of H.B. 600, H.D. 1 and offers comments. H.B. 600, H.D. 1 establishes an additional committee that would be connected to the Department for administrative purposes only to advise the State on strategies to ensure that each child in the State is able to safely bike, walk, roll or bus to school. It also appropriates funds to hire additional staffing, including one full-time Safe Routes to School program coordinator, procure facilities and equipment necessary to support the Safe Routes to School advisory committee, and match federal funding for sidewalks.

Providing a safe transportation system is integral to the DOT's mission and safety is addressed in every project that is implemented. While the DOT supports creating and maintaining a transportation system that provides safe mobility for all modes and users, we are concerned that this bill creates processes that are duplicative and would conflict with the DOT's existing efforts.

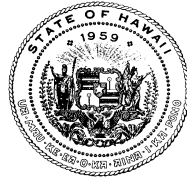
Safety is the State's #1 priority. We have reported on our robust educational enforcement and engineering programs which we implemented to successfully save lives over years. We are proud partners with all counties who are equally dedicated to zero deaths on our roadways. We meet regularly with the four counties and metropolitan planning organizations to discuss project implementation, safety focus, and opportunities for funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funding and programs, including discretionary grant opportunities for safety such as Safe Streets and Roads for All. In this past federal fiscal year, DOT transferred \$25,000,000 to the four counties to provide funding for transit rolling stock and bus operations. The DOT will be providing up to \$60,000,000 of additional funding this fiscal year.

The problem DOT has is not lack of process, but a lack of funding. Additional funds dedicated specifically to bicycling and pedestrian safety are key to improving alternative modes of transportation. The DOT recommends appropriating \$50,000,000 in general funds to the DOT to address bicycle and pedestrian facilities on State and County

transportation systems. The funding could be utilized immediately to advance the highest priority initiatives as identified by legislators, community members, and existing bike and ped plans from counties and the State. The priorities can be set based on recommendations from the Safe Routes for People committee if established. Instead of establishing a Safe Routes to School advisory committee, the DOT recommends that our existing Safe Routes to School coordinator and representatives from school organizations be included in the Safe Routes for People committee if established by S.B. 1506 S.D. 2. This would allow for projects that include both areas surrounding schools as well as connections to destinations beyond schools to provide safe routes for all people.

The DOT supports the intent of this measure to improve safety for vulnerable users of the system. Establishing a one-time infusion of capital specifically for this improvement, and a committee to recommend improvements would be beneficial to the communities we serve and advance the State's Vision Zero approach.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
P.O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony COMMENTING on H.B. 600, H.D. 1
RELATING TO SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL**

REPRESENTATIVE KYLE T. YAMASHITA, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: February 24, 2023

Room Number: Conference Room 308

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health (DOH) defers to the Department of
2 Transportation (DOT) for fiscal implications of implementation.
- 3 **Department Testimony:** The DOH offers comments on House Bill 600, House Draft 1
4 (H.B. 600, H.D. 1) which would establish the Safe Routes to school (SRTS) advisory committee
5 to develop a comprehensive statewide SRTS plan to advise the State on strategies to ensure that
6 each child in the State is able to safely, bike, walk, roll, or bus to that child's respective school
7 and appropriates funds for the DOT to hire additional staffing, procure facilities and equipment
8 necessary to support the SRTS advisory committee, and match federal funding for sidewalks.
- 9 Physical activity is essential to the development of the whole child and in establishing
10 positive health behaviors throughout the lifespan.¹ In 2019, just 13% of Hawaii High School
11 students and 17% of Hawaii Middle School students met the federal guidelines for physical
12 activity.^{2,3} SRTS programs create communities where children and people of all ages can walk,

¹ Elliott, E., Greenberg, J., Battista, R., Guerrero, H.G. (2021). Physical Activity Recommendations for Children and Adolescents: More Important Than Ever. US Physical Activity Alliance. Washington, DC: US.

² Hawaii State Departments of Health and Education, Hawaii Health Data Warehouse, Youth Risk Behavior Survey. '[Physical activity - meet federal guidelines, High Schools, State-level, 2019].' Hawaii-IBIS <http://ibis.hhdw.org/ibisph-view>. Accessed on [January 27, 2023].

³ Hawaii State Departments of Health and Education, Hawaii Health Data Warehouse, Youth Risk Behavior Survey. '[Physical Activity - meet federal guidelines, Middle Schools, State-Level, 2019].' Hawaii-IBIS <http://ibis.hhdw.org/ibisph-view>. Accessed on [January 27, 2023].

1 bike, and roll safely and are associated with increased active transportation, including an increase
2 in the number of students walking or biking to and from school.

3 While state level data is limited, the proportion of students across the United States from
4 kindergarten to grade eight who walk or bike to school fell from 48% in 1969 to only 13% in
5 2009.⁴ In Hawaii, 34% of high school and 38% of middle school students reported they walked
6 or rode their bikes to or from school one or more days on average, and rates are lower for the
7 neighbor island counties.⁵ A 2014 evaluation of several state-level SRTS projects found that
8 they were associated with significant increases in active school travel (from 12.9 percent to 17.6
9 percent), walking (from 9.8 percent to 14.2 percent) and bicycling (from 2.5 percent to 3.0
10 percent).⁶ SRTS efforts are also important for advancing equity to create safer conditions for
11 children and families with disabilities or who live in low-income neighborhoods.⁷

12 H.B. 600, H.D. 1 is aligned with the DOH Healthy Hawaii Strategic Plan 2030 and
13 addresses the physical activity objectives to increase the miles of low stress bicycle and
14 pedestrian infrastructure across the state, and for the state and each county to identify and adopt
15 mode-share goals and measurements that prioritize walking, wheelchairs, and bicycling. The
16 DOH supports the implementation of the Department of Education (DOE) Wellness Guidelines
17 and conducts a yearly Safety and Wellness Survey that evaluates the implementation of the
18 guidelines in all DOE schools. The DOE Wellness Guidelines include objectives to support
19 active transport by encouraging students and staff to walk and/or bike to school.

⁴ McDonald, N.C., Brown, A.L., Marchetti, L.M., & Pedroso, M.S. (2011). U.S. school travel, 2009 an assessment of trends. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 41(2), 146–51. doi: 10.1016/j.amepre.2011.04.006

⁵ Hawaii State Departments of Education and Health, [Hawaii Health Data Warehouse, Hawaii School Health Survey: Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2015, 2017, 2019 Active Transport](#). Accessed 2-08-2023.

⁶ Stewart O, Moudon AV, Claybrooke C. Multistate evaluation of Safe Routes to School Programs. *Am J Health Promotion* 2014;28(Suppl 3): S89–96.

⁷ Zimmerman S, Lieberman M, Kramer K, Sadler B. At the intersection of active transportation and equity: Joining forces to make communities healthier and fairer. 2015.

1 The DOH looks forward to continued collaboration with the DOT and commits to
2 actively participate in the SRTS advisory committee if established, to ensure that health metrics
3 and health equity are included in any performance measures.

4 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

5 **Offered Amendments:** None



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/24/2023

Time: 01:30 PM

Location: 308 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 0600, HD1 RELATING TO SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL.

Purpose of Bill: Establishes the safe routes to school advisory committee within the planning branch of the highways division of the department of transportation. Appropriates moneys. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education supports HB 600, HD 1 and its goal to secure safe routes for biking, rolling, walking, and public transit to Hawaii's public schools, but defers to the Department of Transportation as to the viability of establishing a committee within their department.

Establishing a work group with one full-time coordinator provides an opportunity for a focused effort on a strategic plan with a broader array of transportation options that service various groups and scenarios.

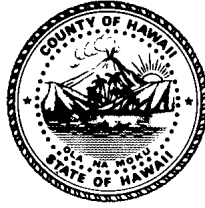
Pursuant to Section 8-27-4, Hawaii Administrative Rules, elementary students that live within one mile of their home school and secondary students that live within one and a half miles of their home school are not eligible for transportation. This measure has the potential to provide safe and secure alternatives for getting to and from school for those that live within the walk zone and are not eligible for transportation. Families are often uncomfortable allowing their children to walk alone but cannot walk with them because of employment obligations or other factors. Families living within the walk zone will choose to drive their children to school instead, which causes chronic traffic congestion during morning and afternoon drop-offs.

Transportation to and from school is also a common barrier to full participation for

students in unstable housing or identified as homeless under the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. Existing transportation options do not always meet the needs of these students, especially if rides are needed before and after school to participate fully in non-school hour programming.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony for this measure.

Jennifer Kagiwada
Council Member District 2 South Hilo



Office: (808) 961-8272
jennifer.kagiwada@hawaiicounty.gov

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 2

25 Aupuni Street • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

DATE: February 22, 2023
TO: House Committee on Finance
FROM: Jennifer Kagiwada, Council Member
Council District 2
SUBJECT: HB 600

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Committee Members,

I am testifying in strong support of HB 600 to establish a Safe Routes to Schools Advisory Committee. This committee is an integral part of developing strategies and supporting transportation-related projects that focus on the safety of keiki and kupuna.

These Safe Streets and Safe Routes programs are especially needed in my District, as I have many constituents who are concerned about the traffic in their neighborhoods, especially near the schools. Both Waiakea Middle and Elementary Schools and EB DeSilva Elementary School are located in neighborhoods where children could and should be encouraged to walk, ride or roll to school. Unfortunately, the lack of barriers between automobile traffic and other modes of transportation along with excessive car speed due to poorly designed streets makes it extremely dangerous for our children and families to do anything but travel by car causing traffic congestion and pollution. Support from the National Safe Routes to School organization is desperately needed in our community.

Please pass HB 600. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jenn Kagiwada'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jenn Kagiwada

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

711 KAPIOLANI BOULEVARD, SUITE 1600
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
Phone: (808) 768-8305 • Fax: (808) 768-4730 • Internet: www.honolulu.gov

RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR



J. ROGER MORTON
DIRECTOR

JON Y. NOUCHI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

TESTIMONY OF J. ROGER MORTON
DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
FINANCE

Friday, February 24, 2023, 1:30 PM, Via Videoconference

TO: Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair, Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair,
and Members of the Committee on Finance

RE: SUPPORT FOR HOUSE BILL 600, HOUSE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO SAFE
ROUTES TO SCHOOL, WITH COMMENTS

The Department of Transportation Services (DTS) of the City and County of Honolulu (City) supports the intent of House Bill 600, House Draft 1, relating to safe routes to school (SRTS), with the following comments.

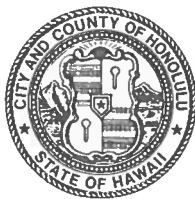
DTS reiterates the State Department of Transportation's (HDOT) commitment and partnership with the counties to achieve zero deaths on our roadways, and the concern that the bill may create processes that are duplicative with the efforts of HDOT and the counties.

DTS strongly supports the bill's proposal to include the City's SRTS program coordinator on the advisory committee to provide input and collaborate on the development of a comprehensive statewide safe routes to school program. DTS further recommends including students attending all elementary schools in the proposed Section (b)(4).

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments.

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET · HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 529-3111 · INTERNET: www.honolulupd.org



RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR

ARTHUR J. LOGAN
CHIEF

KEITH K. HORIKAWA
RADE K. VANIC
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE ST-TK

February 24, 2023

The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
and Members
Committee on Finance
House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 308
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Yamashita and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill No. 600, H.D. 1, Relating to Safe Routes to School

I am Stason Tanaka, Acting Major of the Traffic Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD supports House Bill No. 600, H.D. 1, Relating to Safe Routes to School.


The HPD supports the proposal to establish a safe routes to school advisory committee and all measures that increase the safety of pedestrians.

Implementing this committee can assist in reducing the congestion on our roadways. Should this bill pass, the safe routes to school advisory committee can encourage other forms of transportation such as walking, bicycling, skateboarding, etc. The committee may also find viable solutions to help reduce the number of pedestrian-related fatalities each year.

The HPD urges you to support House Bill No. 600, H.D. 1, Relating to Safe Routes to School. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

APPROVED:

Sincerely,



Arthur J. Logan
Chief of Police


Stason Tanaka, Acting Major
Traffic Division



HIPHI Board

Misty Pacheco, DrPH
Chair
University of Hawai'i at Hilo

JoAnn Tsark, MPH
Secretary
John A. Burns School of Medicine,
Native Hawaiian Research Office

Debbie Erskine
Treasurer
ARCH-MEPS Consulting LLC, Owner

Keshia Adolpho, LCSW
Na'au Healing Center

Camonia Graham - Tutt, PhD
University of Hawai'i - West O'ahu

Carissa Holley, MEd
Hale Makua Health Services

Dina Shek, JD
Medical-Legal Partnership
For Children in Hawai'i

Garret Sugai
HMSA

Kathleen Roche, MS, RN, CENP
Kaiser Permanente

May Okihiro, MD, MS
John A. Burns School of Medicine,
Department of Pediatrics

Titiimaea Ta'ase, JD
State of Hawai'i, Deputy Public
Defender

HIPHI Initiatives

Coalition for a
Tobacco-Free Hawai'i

Community Health
Worker Initiative

COVID-19 Response

Hawai'i Drug & Alcohol Free
Coalitions

Hawai'i Farm to School Hui

Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition

Hawai'i Public Health Training Hui

Healthy Eating + Active Living

Kūpuna Collective

Date: February 22, 2023

To: Representative Kyle T Yamashita, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Re: Support for HB 600 HD1, Relating to Safe Routes to School

Hrg: Friday, February 24, 2023, at 1:00 PM Conf Rm 308

The Obesity Prevention Task Force (OPTF), a program of Hawai'i Public Health Instituteⁱ (HIPHI), is in **support of HB 600 HD1**, which establishes a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Advisory Board and funds a full-time SRTS coordinator position within the Hawai'i Department of Transportation (HDOT).

The lack of safe routes to school puts keiki at risk.

Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI) appreciates the opportunity to provide SUPPORT for **HB 600 HD1**. This measure establishes a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) advisory committee to coordinate with the State Department of Transportation and other invested stakeholders to create a comprehensive, statewide SRTS strategic plan. **HB 600 HD1** also provides for a statewide SRTS Coordinator, a position dedicated to facilitating the SRTS strategic plan and building interdepartmental bridges.

A strategic, outcome-based approach to SRTS is necessary to take full advantage of state funds and federal funding coming to Hawai'i through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). This opportunity is a historic way to invest in creating safe, accessible, and inclusive active transportation options for our keiki and future generations. To support inclusivity, a representative who is familiar with the challenges of the most vulnerable populations in schools could be added to the advisory committee.

The State of Hawai'i has aggressive climate, health, and equity goals. **HB 600 HD1** is one policy that will help Hawai'i:

1. Support safe places for all keiki to walk, bike, and roll to school;
2. Reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2045 (State Climate Commission Goal);
3. Increase the total miles of low-stress pedestrian infrastructure by 50 miles (Department of Health); and

4. Eliminate disparate outcomes by race and ethnicity across all sectors.
This measure is important because it dedicates a committee, a program coordinator, a strategic plan, and frees up funding to build safe, accessible, and inclusive places for keiki to walk and roll. **HB 600 HD1** will positively impact our communities and future generations.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Mahalo,



Peggy Mierzwa
Advocacy & Policy Director
Hawai'i Public Health Institute



**Testimony to the House Committee on Finance
Friday, February 24, 2023; 1:30 p.m.
State Capitol; Conference Room 308
Via Videoconference**

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 0600, HOUSE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL.

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

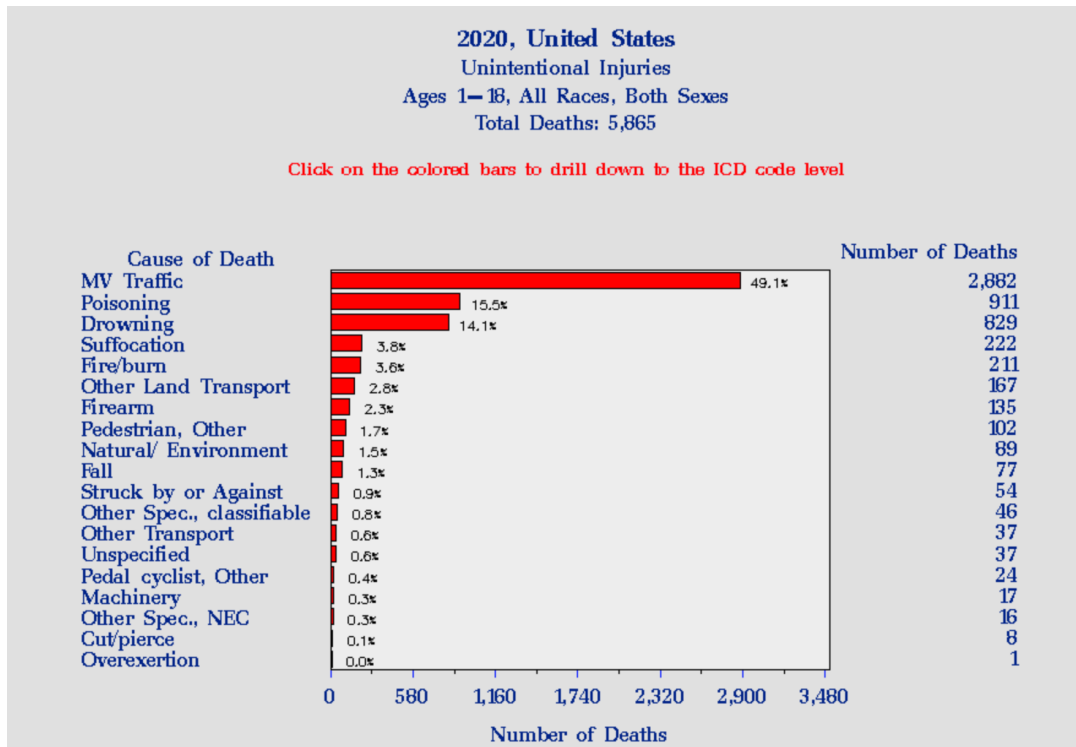
The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** House Bill No. 0600, House Draft 1 RELATING TO SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii's Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines to over 150,000 patients each year who live in rural and underserved communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of healthcare.

This measure, as received by your Committee, would:

- (1) Establish the safe routes to school advisory committee to develop a comprehensive statewide safe routes to school plan to develop strategies that would allow each child in the State to safely bike, walk, roll, or bus to school;
- (2) Appropriate an unspecified amount of general funds for fiscal years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025, to hire one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) safe routes to school program coordinator position, procure necessary facilities and equipment, and match federal funds related to sidewalks; and
- (3) Take effect on July 1, 3000.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the leading cause of death for persons aged 1 to 18 in the United States in 2020 was unintentional injury, of which by more than 30% differential, motor vehicle traffic accidents was the leading cause.



(See, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, <https://wisqars.cdc.gov/fatal-leading>.)

Among adolescents aged 15-19 years in Hawaii, unintentional injury is the leading cause of death, accounting for more than 40% of all deaths in this age group. The majority of these are motor vehicle-related, followed by accidental drowning and poisoning. (See, Hawaii Health Matters, <https://www.hawaiihealthmatters.org/indicators/index/view?indicatorId=2420&localeId=14>.)

Because of this, it is essential that the State identify ways of reducing the occurrence of traffic accidents and ensure that Hawaii's keiki are able to go to and from school safely at all times. **As such, the HPCA urges your favorable consideration of this bill.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Affairs and Policy Director Erik K. Abe at 536-8442, or eabe@hawaiiipca.net.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Friday, February 24, 2023 — 1:30 p.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports HB 600 HD1, Relating to Safe Routes to School.

Dear Chair Yamashita 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 the 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 choices, and better management of freshwater resources.

Ulupono supports HB 600 HD1, which establishes the safe routes to school advisory committee within the Planning Branch of the Highways Division of the Department of Transportation.

Although current transportation planning and decision-making have provided important safe routes to school (SRTS) projects and have added facilities through Complete Streets approaches, many schools remain less accessible for keiki walking or rolling to school. The lack of complete, safe and comfortable bike and pedestrian networks puts keiki at risk. An [analysis of Hawai'i EMS calls](#) found that pedestrian and bicycling injuries to children are most likely to occur during the hours they are traveling to and from school.¹ Overall, walking and biking in Hawai'i have gotten progressively more dangerous in the last 20 years, and we are now ranked the 12th most dangerous state to walk and bike.²

Other states have made firm commitments to protect children's school trips. For example, Colorado dedicates more than \$2.5 million per year in both infrastructure and programmatic monies. These projects range from new sidewalks, lighting and trails, to softer solutions like walking school buses, maps and trip trackers to encourage healthier active living. The more we can support affordable options for keiki to get to school and protect them when they are walking and rolling, the better off our communities will be.

One recommendation we would like to see in this bill is a mechanism to release the \$1.5 million (and growing) that is currently in the safe routes special fund to the counties as outlined in HRS § 291-16. Our understanding is that, per statute, these funds should be going to the counties and historically has helped fund SRTS programs at the county level.

¹ <https://www.hiphi.org/srts2022/>

² <https://smartgrowthamerica.org/dangerous-by-design/>



However, to our knowledge, the funds have not been distributed since the passage of Act 9, Special Session 2021, despite the submission of reports by the counties . We are hopeful that this issue can be addressed.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

HB-600-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2023 11:37:40 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2023 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marissa Matsushige	Hawai'i Youth Commission	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee of Finance,

In support of HB600, regarding implementing safe routes to school.

Aloha! My name is Marissa Matsushige and I am a current senior at Kaua'i High School. I am writing this testimony in support of House Bill 600 implementing safe routes to school for both students and faculty members. This bill will provide students with the means to get to school in a safe manner without fearing that they may be the next victim of an automobile accident. As education is important to students, providing safe ways to get to that education is just as important.

Just recently there has been an accident involving a driver and two McKinley High School students. Sadly, one of the students has passed away from this accident. The accident should never have happened in the first place. Although House Bill 600 may not be able to solve the problem of traffic safety education, it will provide these students with the safety that they deserve to receive their education.

As I am in strong support of this bill, I end with this, if we want to educate our students, what good will it be if there is no way for them to get there? Thank you for your time.

Marissa Matsushige

marissa.mats05@gmail.com



ALOHACARE

To: Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice-Chair
House Committee on Finance

From: Paula Arcena, External Affairs Vice President
Mike Nguyen, Public Policy Manager

Hearing: Friday, February 24, 2023 1:30 PM

RE: **HB600, HD1 Relating to Safe Routes to School- Support**

AlohaCare appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of HB600, HD1**. This measure establishes the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) advisory committee to coordinate with the Department of Transportation and other invested stakeholders to make recommendations to the State on strategies to ensure every child is able to walk, bike, roll or bus safely to school. This measure also appropriates funds to hire additional staff including a dedicated, full-time safe routes to school program coordinator.

Founded in 1994 by Hawai`i's community health centers, AlohaCare is a community-rooted, non-profit health plan serving over 80,000 Medicaid and dual-eligible health plan members on all islands. Approximately half of our membership are keiki. We are Hawai`i's only health plan exclusively dedicated to serving Medicaid beneficiaries. Our mission is to serve individuals and communities in the true spirit of aloha by ensuring and advocating for access to quality health care for all. We believe that health is about supporting whole-person care.

Creating an advisory committee will bring together stakeholders from a broad range of sectors, they will bring a variety of experiences to develop a strategic plan that prioritizes our most vulnerable children, recommend strategies for schools and communities to more easily access funding, and help to stabilize SRTS funding in the state.

Our keiki have the right to get to school safely. They should be encouraged to walk, bike, roll and bus to increase physical movement and decrease auto use. Lack of physical movement leads to higher rates of obesity, heart disease, high blood pressure and diabetes. The infrastructure of where people live directly correlates to their health. Incomplete pedestrian routes create avoidable, unnecessary risk for our keiki. Lack of safe infrastructure and poor health are disproportionately found in areas with the highest rates of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged residents. In addition to improving public health, this measure creates a path to more clearly address the state's transportation costs, greenhouse emissions, and decrease injuries and fatalities.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in **support of HB600, HD1**.

1357 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 1250, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
Call: 973-0712 • Toll-free: 1-877-973-0712 • Fax: 808-973-0726 • www.AlohaCare.org

HB-600-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 1:14:37 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2023 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cards Pintor	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill.

Mahalo nui,

Cards Pintor

HB-600-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2023 7:34:40 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2023 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Azelski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support of HD1. Thank you.

HB-600-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2023 9:17:06 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2023 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaili Swan	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

it inportnat too look out for their safety of students go to school safely i support this hb 600 hd 1
thank you for this opertunity to testify.

HB-600-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2023 9:45:00 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2023 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo. I'm born and raised in the Hawaiian Kingdom a Kanaka Maoli.

I'm writing in SUPPORT of HB600 HD1.

me ke aloha 'āina,
Nanea Lo, Mō'ili'ili