

**LATE**

**HB-653**

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 2:01:23 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/2/2023 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

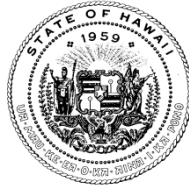
Aloha,

I would feel way safer knowing that our roads are clear from debris. We have one way in and one way out of Lahaina. The roads get shut down all the time.

If the surrounding area was checked on a regular basis these disasters could be prevented.

Mahalo!

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR



**TESTIMONY BY:**

EDWIN H. SNIFFEN  
DIRECTOR

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

**LATE**

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

February 2, 2023  
10:00 A.M.  
State Capitol, Teleconference

**H.B. 653**  
**RELATING TO HIGHWAYS**

House Committee on Transportation

---

H.B. 653 requires the Department of Transportation (DOT) to perform routine inspections of highways in the state highway system that are at risk of rockslides every five years and after major rainfall events. The DOT **supports** this measure and offers the following comments.

The DOT recognizes the hazard that rockslides pose on the system, especially when the highway is in close proximity to a weathered slope. The DOT conducted a rockfall protection study and has a ranking of the high-risk rockfall sites in Hawaii to be addressed with mitigation projects, and to set priority for inspection. The DOT performs windshield inspections of the slopes once a year, and formal inspection at 8 to 10 year intervals if slopes are not impacted by major events. The critical slopes are inspected after each heavy rainfall event. Increasing inspection requirements will have an impact on funding.

The DOT also has in-house rockfall incident procedures that allow for quick response and inspection in the event of a rockfall on the state highway system. Technical staff are deployed to investigate and evaluate the site situation and provide recommendations for mitigation as needed. Drone technology has been used to perform advance inspection prior to sending personnel onto slopes.

Technology will play a larger role in landslide detection for DOT. We have installed slope monitoring equipment at Hanalei Hills on Kauai that detects movements and sends alerts to DOT and emergency management personnel. DOT is also piloting a remote rockfall monitoring device on Pali Highway to detect rockfall incidents.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.