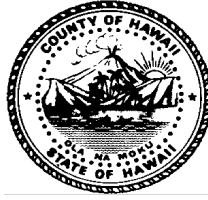


County of Hawai'i  
Council District 4 -  
Lower Puna



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**HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL**  
OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER ASHLEY L. KIERKIEWICZ  
25 Aupuni Street • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

**LATE**

February 14, 2022

**Senate Committee on Water and Land**  
Senator Lorraine Inouye, Chair  
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair

**Senate Committee on Transportation**  
Senator Chris Lee, Chair  
Senator Lorraine Inouye, Vice-Chair

**RE: Support for SB 2895 relating to a Metropolitan Planning Organization**

Aloha, Chair Inouye, Chair Lee, and WTL x TRS Committee Members:

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support for SB 2895, relating to a metropolitan planning organization (MPO) within the County of Hawai'i.

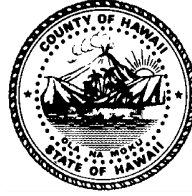
The Hawai'i County Council adopted Resolution 262-21 (attached), which calls for intergovernmental collaboration to assess Hawai'i Island's transportation infrastructure and identify steps necessary to establish, administer, and staff an MPO. SB 2895 would formalize coordination among the State and County on this endeavor through creation of a temporary task force, which would be charged with assessing eligibility and pursuing certification of MPO status.

Thank you for recognizing the importance of the State and County working collaboratively on transportation and mobility planning for Hawai'i Island. By partnering, we'll be able to develop solutions for a more efficient and effective transportation system that meet the needs of our island's growing population, and ensures residents have access to opportunities and can thrive.

Mahalo nui loa,

Ashley Lehualani Kierkiewicz  
Hawai'i County Council, District 4  
Chair, Committee on Planning • Chair, Housing Agency

COUNTY OF HAWAI‘I



STATE OF HAWAI‘I

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**A RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING TO ASSESS ESTABLISHMENT OF A METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION FOR THE COUNTY OF HAWAI‘I.**

**WHEREAS**, the Hawai‘i State Senate of the Thirty-First Legislature adopted Senate Resolution No. 28, S.D. 1 (attached hereto as “Exhibit A”), calling for establishment of a metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for the County of Hawai‘i; and,

**WHEREAS**, MPOs are responsible for developing solutions to regional transportation issues in urbanized areas with a population of at least 50,000 people; and,

**WHEREAS**, in the 2020 United State Census, the geographical areas encompassing Hilo, Kea‘au, and Puna, and Waimea, Waikoloa, and Kailua-Kona, were found to have populations exceeding the federal threshold of 50,000; and,

**WHEREAS**, the metropolitan planning organization consists of a policy board responsible for making decisions based off of cooperative and comprehensive transportation planning processes, and organization staff to support and provide technical resources to the policy board; and,

**WHEREAS**, metropolitan planning organizations are established to serve as a conduit for collaboration among communities and government agencies and to direct federal funds toward projects that increase access to opportunity and prosperity through improved multimodal pedestrian, bicycle, and transit options; and

**WHEREAS**, Hawai‘i County has many challenges facing its transportation infrastructure and connectivity given its growing population and natural geography which can be assisted with the monetary and technical assistance that metropolitan planning organizations qualify for; now, therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF HAWAI‘I** that the County of Hawai‘i Department of Planning conduct a feasibility study to assess the current

population for Hawai‘i Island and what is needed to stand up a metropolitan planning organization.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Department of Planning work with entities across jurisdictions to identify appropriate roles and create necessary partnerships amongst County, State, and Federal agencies to administer and staff a metropolitan planning organization.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the metropolitan planning organization would oversee a Policy Board, Technical Advisory Committee, and Citizen Advisory Committee, and shall report to the Council anticipated costs, expenses and resources for support.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that metropolitan planning organizations will provide the County access to certain federal funding around continuous and comprehensive transportation and mobility planning which will require cooperation with the County Department of Public Works, Department of Planning, Mass Transit Agency, and State Department of Transportation.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Department of Planning shall report its findings to the County Council on no date later than January 31, 2022.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the County Clerk shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the Honorable Mitchell D. Roth, Mayor; Lee E. Lord, Managing Director; Zendo Kern, Planning Director, Ikaika Rodenhurts, Director of Public Works.

Dated at \_\_\_\_\_, Hawai‘i, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

COUNTY COUNCIL  
County of Hawai‘i  
Hilo, Hawai‘i

I hereby certify that the foregoing RESOLUTION was by the vote indicated to the right hereof adopted by the COUNCIL of the County of Hawai‘i on \_\_\_\_\_.

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK    CHAIRPERSON & PRESIDING OFFICER

ROLL CALL VOTE

	AYES	NOES	ABS	EX
CHUNG	X			
DAVID	X			
INABA	X			
KĀNEALI‘I-KLEINFELDER	X			
KIERKIEWICZ	X			
KIMBALL	X			
LEE LOY	X			
RICHARDS	X			
VILLEGAS	X			

Reference: \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_262-21\_\_\_\_\_



**SB-2895**

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 3:00:17 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/15/2022 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

We the people of Hawaii do not want any of this on our Island!!

**SB-2895**

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 10:53:13 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/15/2022 3:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Shelly Ogata	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Senator Chris Lee, Chair, Committee on Transportation, Senator Lorraine Inouye, Chair, Committee on Water and Land, and members of the Committees:

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of SB 2895 to assist in the establishment of a metropolitan planning organization [MPO] for the County of Hawai‘i.

Our county has many challenges facing its transportation infrastructure and connectivity given its growing population and topography. I am hopeful we can substantially address these issues with the monetary and technical assistance that MPOs qualify for. As a former Hawai‘i Island planning commissioner and a lifelong resident, I am experiencing these challenges first hand. We feel the repercussions of the poor transportation infrastructure in all aspects of our lives; whether it be access to healthcare, livable wages, educational opportunities, healthy food – we all are experiencing degrees of impact.

My training in public health has allowed me to understand the intersections between planning and public health. Access to transportation is definitely a driver or core strategy to consider as we tackle the social determinants of health in our communities. We can stand up all kinds of programs, but without the transportation infrastructure and access to reliable forms of transportation (including access to reliable internet services), our citizens will continue to struggle in all aspects of their lives.

I am definitely looking forward to the collaboration among our communities and government agencies to direct these projects and funds in a meaningful way for all of our island citizens to realize an opportunity to live in a vibrant Hawai‘i.

Again, please support this bill to assist our County with establishing a MPO.

Mahalo for your time and attention,

Shelly Ogata, RN, MPH