

Testimony of Dr. Danny de Gracia, Th.D., D.Min

in support of the measure

SCR 138 SD1 *“Urging the City and County of Honolulu to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Lanikai bikeway and recognize the efforts of Ted Rogers and Cynthia Thielen who led the efforts to establish it.”*

before the committee on Transportation

Wednesday, April 13, 2022

11:00 a.m., Room 423

Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Ilagan, Honorable Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of this worthy resolution. As many of you on this committee are well-aware, your former colleague and the formerly elected Republican representative Cynthia Thielen was a tireless advocate for her community, always looking to add value and enhance the wellbeing of her district.

As an elected official, Thielen was exacting in her attention-to-detail for her constituents and warmly maternalistic in her approach to seeking the greatest good for the greatest number by building the kind of infrastructure that made her district a joy to live, work and play in. In short, this woman showed the power of being present when we needed her most. The Lanikai bikeway is a perfect case-in-point of the balanced community mindset of the former Rep. Thielen, and it is only fitting that she and Ted Rogers should receive recognition from the state, and the city and county of Honolulu.

Western civilization and our organized community owes many of its present traditions from the ways of Ancient Rome, and when I think of the work of Rep. Thielen, the words of Emperor Marcus Aurelius Antonious come to mind: “Concentrate every minute on doing what’s in front of you with precise and genuine seriousness, tenderly, willingly, with justice, and with freeing yourself from all other distractions” and further, “Search men’s governing principles, and consider the wise, what they shun and what they cleave to.”

Rep. Thielen is a worthy public servant whose deeds and commitment to our state should be remembered for generations. Please pass this measure on behalf of those who have helped build our community, and for the example of our youth who are looking for role models for which they will emulate in the future when they serve our community in the ages to come.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Representative Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair
Representative Greggor Ilagan, Vice Chair

Wednesday, April 13, 2022, 11:00 a.m. - Conference Room 423 and Videoconference

I strongly support SCR138 Proposed SD1 and SCR122 Proposed SD2 to honor former Kailua State Representative Cynthia Thielen for her work on the Lanikai bike lane. The bike lane is just one of her many accomplishments during her 30 year tenure in the State House in which she served Kailua with great distinction.

Since Representative Thielen's retirement I have strongly believed that she should be honored for her outstanding service. No one has done more for Kailua than Cynthia Thielen who enjoyed wide support across the political spectrum for her tireless efforts on behalf of the environment, small business, public education and public health. She is quite modest and did not even want a room in the Kailua Public Library named after her, although she certainly deserves a much grander gesture. Kailua residents will be quite happy for the Lanikai bikeway celebration as it is a chance to publically thank a truly magnificent public servant who worked full-time at a part-time job long past retirement age. Thank you so much for this opportunity to recognize the outstanding achievements of Representative Thielen has done for our community.