



**STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION & ADAPTATION
COMMISSION
POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809**

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**Testimony of
Leah Laramee
Coordinator, Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission**

**Before the Senate Committee on
TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS**

**Thursday February 2, 2023
3:00 PM
State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 224**

**In support of
Senate Bill 1087
RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION**

Senate Bill 1087 renames the State Highway Safety Council as the State Highway Safety and Modernization Council and amends the composition and duties of the council. **The Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (Commission) offers the following comments in support of this measure.**

Hawai'i became a climate action leader in 2018 when HRS §225P, the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Initiative became law, pledging to make the State of Hawai'i carbon negative by 2045. However, continued increases in vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and the resulting GHG emissions is a barrier to Hawai'i achieving its legislated climate action goals.

The Commission's 2022 report *Investing in Transportation Choices* states that VMT reduction goals and strategies are essential for meeting climate goals. This bill amends the duties of the council to include "Establish metrics and benchmarks for the department of transportation to ensure progress on state goals related to ground transportation, safety, and modernization and other related goals" and "Review projects in development and make recommendations for how each might be improved, if warranted, to better meet state goals, before project plans and designs are finalized." The Commission is supportive as it will help the State to reach its 2045 goals by providing the opportunity to reevaluate how investments are contributing to meeting climate and energy goals.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment in support of this measure.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION & CULTURE & THE ARTS
Thursday, February 2, 2023 — 3:00 p.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports SB 1087, Relating to Transportation.

Dear Chair Lee 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 SB 1087, which renames the State Highway Safety Council as the State Highway Safety and Modernization Council and amends the composition and duties of the Council.

The transportation industry is facing many challenges. Movements such as Vision Zero aim to end traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries by taking a systemic approach to road safety. Transportation agencies have been faced with new calls to prioritize safety through efforts such as Vision Zero commitments at the federal and state level, coupled with demands for greater transparency through performance metric reporting.

In Hawai'i, longer term funding considerations remain, including the long-term solvency of the highway trust fund and the possible transition to a road user charge. Added to this are climate concerns, cost-of-living pressures, public health crises, and mobility justice. These are incredibly important issues that put the Hawai'i Department of Transportation (HDOT) in a very tough position—thoughtful, evidence-based conversations are necessary to effect progress.

HDOT is facing all these issues and more, and the department should not have to undertake these alone. The State Highway Safety and Modernization Council can help support the department as it strives to balance and meet the many high priorities and community needs across Hawai'i.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i

LATE

SB-1087

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:53:23 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/2/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Todd Boulanger	Testifying for Bikeshare Hawaii (aka Biki)	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Bikeshare Hawaii supports SB1087, and will submit more detailed testimony in the future.

CJ Johnson
chrisluttet@gmail.com

2/2/2023

Senator Chris Lee and Transportation, Culture and the Arts Committee

Dear Chair Lee and Committee Members,

I am writing to offer support for Senate Bill 1087 (SB1087).

I submit this testimony as a private citizen but I have a long resume as an advocate and organizer for safer, healthier transportation systems. I have led advocacy bike and pedestrian organizations and have served in state and local transportation and health agencies. Currently I am the lead organizer of the Hawaii Safe Routes Coalition. HSRC is an informal group of nonprofit, government, elected, and community representatives who are committed to working towards a Hawaii where all keiki have the infrastructure, confidence, skills and social support to bus, bike, walk or roll to school.

The State Highway Safety Council is the HDOT's preferred venue for collaboration and advice from critical agency and community stakeholders in ensuring the state fulfills its mission of providing a "safe, efficient, accessible, and sustainable inter-modal transportation system that ensures the mobility of people and goods, and enhances and/or preserves economic prosperity and the quality of life".

It is HDOT practice when requested or mandated to develop or participate in stakeholder groups to take on critical initiatives like Vision Zero (now a state law) and Safe Routes to School to assert that any such initiatives are redundant to the SHSC.

However, the SHSC rarely meets and has- at best- limited influence. For example, when HDOT was tasked by Act 124-19 with assembling a Vision Zero committee to report to the legislature, it delegated SHSC to develop the report. This resulted in no ongoing stewardship of [Vision Zero](#) despite HRS286-7.5, which states: "The department of transportation and the county transportation departments shall adopt a Vision Zero policy that seeks to prevent and ultimately eliminate all traffic fatalities through a combination of engineering, enforcement, education, and emergency response strategies that focus on equity."

By expanding membership and scope of the SHSC, and moving convening authority from HDOT to the legislature, SHSC is more likely to serve the advisory function for which it was developed and make better use of the time and expertise of its volunteer members and staff support.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important measure,

CJ Johnson

Honolulu

SB-1087

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:19:35 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/2/2023 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Will Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB1087. Transportation and infrastructure require solid planning and strong oversight and accountability mechanisms, not just because of the high dollar amounts, but because of what's at stake in getting them right. Climate change, worsening traffic and other strains on our transportation system only raise the stakes of projects like the Honolulu Rail and many others. The additional members of the board and their specific expertise will be very helpful in making sure our transportation infrastructure is properly planned and executed with accountability.