

TESTIMONY OF

**LARRY S VERAY**

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

***MOST STRONGLY SUPPORT SR 113***

**URGING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU, HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL, AND HONOLULU AUTHORITY FOR RAPID TRANSPORTATION TO FIND A MEANS TO FUND THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PARK-AND-RIDE GARAGE AT WAIAWA STATION AND URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO ESTABLISH ADDITIONAL TRANSIT SERVICES BETWEEN CENTRAL OAHU AND WAIAWA STATION.**

April 9, 2023

Aloha, Chair Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair Brandon Elefante and Committee members. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide testimony on SR 113. I am Chair for the Pearl City Neighborhood Board No. 21. I am submitting this testimony on behalf of our board, thousands of residents of Pearl City, Central and West Oahu who would use the Honolulu and Rapid Transit (HART) rail transportation at the Pearl Highlands Station if there was a parking garage for their vehicle and then embark the train. In March and April of 2022, Pearl City, Wahiawa and Mililani Neighborhood Boards passed resolutions stating their requirement for the construction of a Park & Ride Garage to be built in Waiawa. Regretfully, in April of 2022, the HART Executive director and CEO deferred the construction of the Pearl Highlands Park & Ride Garage that was expected to cost 300 million dollars. That funding was diverted to fund the rail Eastbound towards Ala Moana Shopping Center.

Previously, the Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization Central Oahu Transportation Study Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) stated a strong requirement for (1) a dedicated lane on the H-2 that feeds directly into the Pearl Highlands Transit Station to support private vehicles and City buses; and (2) a Park & Ride Garage be constructed to service the vehicular access to the Pearl Highlands Station and to be constructed in time for the start of the rail activity. This requirement was adopted in reference as noted in the Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization (OMPO) Central Oahu Transportation Study Permitted Interaction Group, Nov 30, 2019.

What we believe to be the negative impact on our highways with the continued development of housing at Koa Ridge and Hoopili new residential areas of projected 25,000 housing units with an additional 75,000 more residents using the H1/H3 Expressways and where they meet at the junction creating a traffic gridlock. The State and City should look at possibly looking at other alternatives such as a light rail at ground level from Mililani to the Pearl Highlands Station building this spur to the main rail system.

I most strongly urge you to support and approve SR 113 and Urge the State and City to find funding to construct the Pearl Highlands Park & Ride Garage and feeder ramp from the H3 expressway to the Pearl Highlands Station. Mahalo!

Very respectfully,

*Larry S. Veray*

**SR-113**

Submitted on: 4/10/2023 8:48:27 AM

Testimony for PSM on 4/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jayden Liu	Testifying for Pearl City Neighborhood Board	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a member of the Pearl City Neighborhood Board, we have unanimously passed a resolution urging city and state lawmakers to appropriate funding for this critical infrastructure. This would significantly increase access to RAIL and allow riders to access nearby businesses. The Pearl City NB strongly recommends the passage of this bill, and appreciates your efforts to increase rider access.

**SR-113**

Submitted on: 4/9/2023 7:29:12 PM

Testimony for PSM on 4/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Charmaine Doran	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please adopt this resolution and work to have the park & ride built as promised. It is an important part of the rail system and will guarantee that working people in Pearl City, Mililani, waipahu and Wahiawa are able to use the rail system effectively commute. Please note that our community was not aware of this proposed change to remove the parking structure more than a year after it was first suggested by the HART. Also, the City plans to will use this site for parking. Just not for us.

The Pearl City Neighborhood Board also adopted a resolution requesting the same from the city. You may find it here [https://www.honolulu.gov/rep/site/nco/nb21/resolutions/2022-04\\_Resolution\\_Requesting\\_Pearl\\_Highlands\\_Park\\_Ride\\_Parking\\_Facility.pdf](https://www.honolulu.gov/rep/site/nco/nb21/resolutions/2022-04_Resolution_Requesting_Pearl_Highlands_Park_Ride_Parking_Facility.pdf)

Mahalo

**SR-113**

Submitted on: 4/9/2023 7:46:31 PM

Testimony for PSM on 4/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ryan Kawailani Ozawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support for the Honolulu rail project was thoughtfully secured from communities not directly served by the system through inclusionary infrastructure like a Park and Ride parking structure at Waiawa to support central and north Oahu. As a lifelong supporter of rail, I was counting on this to ensure my ability to incorporate rail into my Honolulu commute.

To have this important structure scrapped just as the system begins to come online is a slap in the face. While it is important to have the system reach Ala Moana, and someday Mānoa and Waikīkī, it's western service for the residential hubs of Oahu is critical.

**SR-113**

Submitted on: 4/10/2023 6:39:14 AM

Testimony for PSM on 4/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Victor T Kimura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Senator Glenn Wakai

Chair, Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante

Vice Chair Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

Support for SR113

I am a resident of Mililani, Central Oahu, and as a retired resident, I am encouraged with the opportunity to have a park and ride at the Waiawa Station in Pearl Highlands as I would use it. Driving from Mililani to downtown, with the traffic, is stressful, and using a park and ride facility would help facilitate any appointments in town. The major traffic bottleneck is the H2/H1 merge, as having the park and ride station in Pearl Highlands would alleviate the congestion.

I kindly ask for your support to encourage the City and County of Honolulu to establish the park and ride as initially planned.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Victor Kimura

Mililani, Hawaii

**SR-113**

Submitted on: 4/10/2023 8:48:50 AM

Testimony for PSM on 4/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Marion Poirier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair and Members of the Committee:

My name is Marion Poirier, and I am a Mililani resident who strongly supports this important measure. It is critical for us Mililani residents to have the parking structure as well as for points beyond Mililani. It is critical for ridership, too. Don't forget the keys to successful rail, PARKING.

Thank you.