

TESTIMONY OF
LARRY S VERAY

TO THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB2015 HD1

RELATED TO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

February 21, 2024

Aloha, Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and Committee members. I am Larry Veray, Chairman for the Pearl City Neighborhood Board No. 21. I am submitting this testimony representing our board as a whole and the over 6,000 residents and families that live in Pacific Palisades in Pearl City. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of HB2015 HD1, that would require the Department of Transportation to build an emergency egress road that could potentially save thousands of lives if a disaster occurred in Pacific Palisades allowing for evacuation of residents and access for emergency response vehicles.

I want you to be aware that there are some residents in Pacific Palisades that our concerned that if this emergency egress road is built for massive evacuation, it could be converted into a daily bypass road that would negatively impact traffic for Pacific Palisades. There is also concern from some residents that their homes could be jeopardy to build this route out of Palisades. I thank you for the language in this bill that states the requirement for an emergency egress road and not a bypass road.

I most strongly urge you to pass HB2015 HD1. Mahalo!

Larry S. Veray

HB-2015-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 7:58:41 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel C. Smith	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

As a resident of Pacific Palisades and member of the Pearl City Neighborhood Board, I strongly support HB2015.

Board Chair Larry Veray and Vice Chair Charmaine Doran have previously eloquently testified about the history of blockages of Komo Mai Drive over the years as well as the serious vulnerabilities. Please report out the bill favorably.

Mahalo,

Daniel C. (Dan) Smith

HB-2015-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 9:25:56 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charmaine Doran	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for continuing to discuss an emergency route for Pacific Palisades. I have previously submitted testimony in favor of this measure. The 6000 residents, my neighbors, deserve infrastructure that helps to keep them safer during an emergency. Sirens and emergency evacuation road and plans should be as routine as street lights. Currently, I am unaware of a state or city plan to evacuate the residents of this community should fire, mudslide, flooding or other event cut off access to our only ingress/egress. I hope that this committee will solve this service gap by supporting emergency route legislation before you today.

Additionally, I am unaware of the need to change the effective date to “encourage more discussion.” But this does send a message - that we are not important. I ask that this be corrected. This bill is a planning / reporting legislation. That’s actually where the discussion should occur.

Mahalo to my state officials for trying to keep Palisades front of mind during this legislative session.