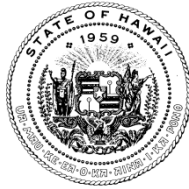


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

Deputy Directors
Nā Hope Luna Ho'okele
DREANALEE K. KALILI
TAMMY L. LEE
CURT T. OTAGURO
ROBIN K. SHISHIDO

STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | KA 'OIHANA ALAKAU
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

February 13, 2025
10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 430

H.B. 1260
RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION

House Committee on Transportation

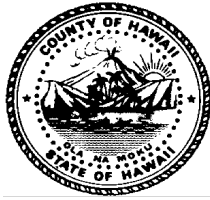
The Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) **supports H.B. 1260**. H.B. 1260 requires each county, in collaboration with the HDOT to establish a Summer Streets Pilot Program that closes vehicular traffic and repurposes roads for pedestrian and cyclist use, outdoor events, and other community-driven activities. It also requires each county to submit an initial proposal to the Director of Transportation and appropriates funds out of the general fund.

The HDOT supports efforts to promote active transportation and support vibrant communities. We will coordinate with the Counties to accomplish the objectives of the Summer Streets Pilot Program while still maintaining transportation safety and mobility for all transportation system users.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Ashley L. Kierkiewicz
County Council District IV

*Chair – Policy Committee on Planning,
Land Use & Economic Development*



(808) 961-8265
ashley.kierkiewicz@hawaiiicounty.gov

*Vice-Chair – Policy Committee on
Public Works & Mass Transit*

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

25 Aupuni Street • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

February 11, 2025

Support for HB 1260

House Committee on Transportation

Rep. Darius Kila, Chair

Rep. Tina Grandinetti, Vice-Chair

Aloha, Chair Kila, Vice-Chair Grandinetti, and Members of the House Committee on Transportation:

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **strong support of HB 1260**, relating to a Summer Streets Pilot Program.

As the Council Member for Lower Puna, I have worked closely with community partners over the last six years to build the capacity and infrastructure necessary to host outdoor events that extend into public streets in Downtown Pāhoā on Hawai'i Island. With another town party planned in early May for the anniversary of the Kīlauea eruption and the summer launch of Hale Hālāwai o Puna, our new cultural entrepreneurial hub, we welcome the opportunity to develop a proposal demonstrating how this program can thrive in a rural town setting.

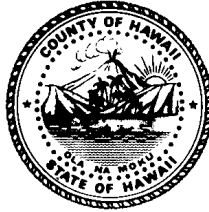
HB 1260 is an innovative approach to creating vibrant, people-centered public spaces while supporting local businesses and cultural engagement. I respectfully urge its passage and look forward to collaborating on its successful implementation.

Cheers,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ashley Kierkiewicz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "A".

Ashley Lehualani Kierkiewicz
COUNCIL MEMBER, DISTRICT IV
HAWAI'I COUNTY

HEATHER L. KIMBALL
COUNCIL DISTRICT 1
(North Hilo, Hāmākua, and portion of
Waimea)



Phone: (808) 961-8828
Fax: (808) 961-8912
Email: Heather.Kimball@hawaiicounty.gov

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

25 Aupuni Street, Ste. 1402.
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

February 11, 2025

House Committee on Transportation
Honorable Representative Darius K. Kila, Chair
Honorable Representative Tina Nakada Grandinetti, Vice Chair
Submission via online testimony only

RE: **Support of HB1260**

Dear Chair Kila, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and Members of the House Committee on Transportation:

As the sitting Council Member for Council District 1, I thank you for the opportunity to submit **testimony in SUPPORT of HB1260**, as this initiative aligns with our shared commitment to foster vibrant, sustainable, and livable communities that enhance the health, well-being, and connectivity of our residents.

Streets and public spaces serve as invaluable community resources, and by temporarily repurposing them for pedestrian and cyclist use during specific times, we can create safe and inclusive spaces that promote recreation, active transportation, and cultural engagement. This initiative has the potential to transform Hawai'i's urban spaces, enriching community life while also supporting local businesses and improving environmental outcomes.

Establishing a Summer Streets Pilot Program here in Hawai'i can provide residents with accessible, vibrant, and people-centered public spaces for all to enjoy.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this measure. If you would like to discuss my knowledge of this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

HEATHER L. KIMBALL

HB-1260

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 11:56:33 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/13/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelly Hudik	PATH-People for Active Transportation Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

PATH-People for Active Transportation Hawai'i is fully in favor of HB1260. Giving an opportunity to close down our streets for pedestrians and cyclists this summer is a great way to encourage people to get outside and be active. It is an opportunity to teach safe cycling and pedestrian safety, especially with the high number of traffic deaths on our roads last year.

We encourage you to support HB1260

-Kelly Hudik

PATH-COO



ADDRESS
3442 Wai'ālae Ave., Suite 1
Honolulu, HI 96816

PHONE
808-735-5756

EMAIL
bicycle@hbl.org

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
Thursday, February 13, 2025 – 10:00am

Hawai'i Bicycling League STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB 1260, Relating to Transportation

Aloha Chair Kila, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and Committee Members,

My name is Eduardo Hernandez, and I am the Advocacy Director of the Hawai'i Bicycling League (HBL). We are a non-profit organization founded in 1975 with the mission of enabling more people to ride bicycles for health, recreation, and transportation. We strive to create communities across our islands that have safe, accessible, and inclusive environments for people to bike, walk, and roll.

Throughout its 50-year history, HBL has consistently identified that **a primary barrier for people to choose cycling for transportation, recreation, or health is that they feel physically vulnerable sharing the roads with cars, buses, and trucks.**

Accordingly, **Hawai'i Bicycling League strongly supports HB 1260**, which will require each county, in collaboration with the department of transportation, to establish a Summer Streets Pilot Program that temporarily closes vehicular traffic and repurposes roads for pedestrian and cyclist uses. By carving out a few hours when motor vehicles are excluded from the roads, we'll remove this primary barrier and threat to personal safety, especially for keiki and kūpuna.

Public Safety Benefits

The Summer Streets Pilot Program is aligned with municipal public safety plans like:

- The **Honolulu Pedestrian Plan** published in 2022 to create vibrant, safe, and accessible streets for people of all ages.
- The **Honolulu Vision Zero Action Plan**, a data-based initiative to reduce and eliminate traffic deaths and serious injuries on our streets by 2035.
- The **Community Design & Active Living Program** of the Department of Health Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Division.

This pilot program is also aligned with the **Oahu Destination Management Plan**, published in coordination with the Hawai'i Tourism Authority, which aims to manage visitor impact in part by creating more opportunities to ride bicycles.

Furthermore, a [2024 study published by the Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice](#) detailed the imbalance that exists in our transportation system and the need to create an equitable

system that prioritizes not just vehicles, but the well-being of Hawai'i's entire population including pedestrians and people who ride bicycles.

Public Health Benefits:

There are numerous public health reasons to support a Summer Streets Pilot. A 2023 study published in the *The Lancet*¹ medical journal found a growing body of evidence that these types of Open / Summer Streets initiatives are important public health interventions that address many health challenges including obesity and social isolation.

According to the US Department of Transportation, almost a quarter of American adults report that they do not engage in any physical activity outside of their jobs, and sedentary lifestyles are an important reason that two-thirds of U.S. adults are overweight or obese. By improving bicycle and pedestrian facilities/experiences, we can create opportunities for people to exercise recreationally and build exercise into their daily routine by bicycling or walking to work, shops, and services.

Economic Benefits:

Open/Summer Streets are often complemented with activities to encourage physical activity, civic engagement, local economic development, community development, recovery and revitalisation of public spaces, and changing transport behaviour through walking and cycling advocacy. A 2022 report published by New York City² found that Open Streets had a **significant economic impact**, increasing sales for businesses in these corridors and reduced sales in nearby control corridors.

HBL strongly believes that creating a fun day to walk, ride, and roll as well as engage with local health services, food, and entertainment will help shift public perception that cycling is dangerous and get people to consider how they can begin to reduce their own vehicle miles traveled using bicycles.

This has been the experience in Open Streets Programs in cities around the world, including Mexico City, New York, Long Beach, Tucson, Baltimore, Minneapolis, and Atlanta.

HBL stands ready to share our experience with the counties and to connect stakeholders statewide.



Eduardo Hernandez

Advocacy Director

1

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196\(23\)00109-2/fulltext?ref=modesofliving.com#:~:text=Several%20studies%20have%20suggested%20that.noise%2C%20and%20improves%20air%20quality](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196(23)00109-2/fulltext?ref=modesofliving.com#:~:text=Several%20studies%20have%20suggested%20that.noise%2C%20and%20improves%20air%20quality)

² <https://www.nyc.gov/html/dot/downloads/pdf/streets-for-recovery.pdf>



Testimony of the Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization

Committee on Transportation

Date: February 13, 2025, Time: 10:00AM
Location (ex. CR 229 & Videoconference)

Measure HB1260
Measure Title: Relating to Transportation

Dear Chair Kila, Vice Chair Nakada Grandinetti, and Committee Members,

The Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization (OahuMPO) **supports HB1260**, which would require each county, in collaboration with the Department of Transportation to establish a Summer Streets Pilot Program that closes vehicular traffic and repurposes roads for pedestrian and cyclist use, outdoor events, and other community-driven activities.

HB1260 will create safer, more vibrant public spaces by designating streets for pedestrians, cyclists, and community use through a Summer Streets Pilot Program. Closing select streets to vehicular traffic fosters active transportation, promotes local businesses, and provides residents with safe, car-free spaces for recreation and social gatherings.

Similar programs in other cities have increased foot traffic, improved public health, and boosted local economies by attracting more people to shared spaces. This initiative aligns with Hawaii's climate goals by reducing vehicle emissions and encouraging sustainable transportation options. Counties should also consider integrating bike buses and cargo bike demonstrations to highlight alternative mobility options for families. Investing in Summer Streets will enhance community well-being, economic vitality, and equitable access to public space across Hawaii.

HB1260 aligns with the Vision and Goals of the Oahu Regional Transportation Plan (ORTP), by promoting an equitable and resilient transportation system.

The OahuMPO is the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) on the island of Oahu responsible for carrying out a multimodal transportation planning process, including the development of a long-range (25-year horizon) metropolitan transportation plan, referred to as the Oahu Regional Transportation Plan (ORTP), which encourages and promotes a safe, efficient, and resilient transportation system that serves the mobility needs of all people and freight (including walkways, bicycles, and transit),

fosters economic growth and development, while minimizing fuel consumption and air pollution ([23 CFR 450.300](#)).

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



Testimony for Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
Support for HB1260 - Relating to Transportation
House Committee on Transportation
February 13th, 2025 at 10AM

Dear Chair Kila, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and members of the TRN committee,
Mahalo for the opportunity to express **STRONG SUPPORT for HB1260**, which would require each county, in collaboration with the department of transportation, to establish a summer streets pilot program that temporarily closes vehicular traffic and repurposes roads for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Hawai'i Appleseed is in support of HB1260 as we anticipate the Summer Streets program to produce:

- **Public Health Benefits:** A 2023 study published in the The Lancet medical journal found a growing body of evidence demonstrating that Summer Streets programs are important public health interventions that address many health challenges including obesity and social isolation.¹ This is important as almost a quarter of American adults report that they do not engage in any physical activity outside of their jobs.² By improving bicycle and pedestrian facilities and experiences, we can create opportunities for people to exercise recreationally and build exercise into their daily routine by bicycling or walking to work, shops, and services.
- **Economic Benefits:** Summer Streets programs are often complemented with activities to encourage physical activity, civic engagement, and economic development. A 2022 found that Summer Streets had a significant positive economic impact and increased sales for businesses in corridors where these programs were occurring.³

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

Abbey Seitz

Abbey Seitz

Director of Transportation Equity

Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice

¹ Velázquez-Cortés, Daniel et al., Health benefits of Open Streets programmes in Latin America: a quantitative health impact assessment, The Lancet Planetary Health, Volume 7, Issue 7, e590 - e599. July, 2023.

² US Department of Transportation, Active Transportation and Health, June 10, 2024.
<https://www.transportation.gov/mission/health/active-transportation-and-health>.

³ New York City DOT, Streets for Recovery: The Economic Benefits of the NYC Open Streets Program, October 2022.
<https://www.nyc.gov/html/dot/downloads/pdf/streets-for-recovery.pdf>.

Cycle On Hawaii

CYCLOVIA HAWAII

Promoting Healthy Lifestyles

808-395-3233

TO: Committee on Transportation

HEARING: 10 a.m. Thursday, February 13, 2025

SUBJECT: HB1260, Summer Streets Pilot Program - **SUPPORT**

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on HB1260, which would require counties to establish a Summer Streets Pilot Program. We support this effort.

In August 2012, Cycle On Hawaii held Hawaii's first Open Streets event in Kailua. Hele On Kailua consisted of bike education via a bike rodeo, 5k run, entertainment and a recognized expert speaker in these types of community activities. Since it was the first Open Streets event in Hawaii, we were quite limited in the street closures. It was still a success, however.



5k at Hele On Kailua

On May 10, 2013, we put together Hele On Kakaako with wide support from volunteers and the community, including Kamehameha Schools and the city. That event included a complete streets demonstration on Cooke Street as well as 5k run, bike education and other activities. The Honolulu City Council recognized Cycle On Hawaii on June 5, 2013, for its efforts.



Hele On Kaka'ako

CYCLOVIA HAWAII

Healthy Land. Healthy
 Oceans. Healthy People.

MAHALO!

This event could not have happened without the tireless work of all of our supporters. Countless hours, donations, sweat, and creative minds have come together to support our vision. From engineering design to creative competitions, we have so many people to thank.

Our Partners, Our Supporters!

Our Sponsors

- Alliance for Biking & Walking
- American Institute of Architects
- BOCA
- Carole Kai Charities
- Certified Erosion Control
- Hawaii
- Councilmember Beene
- Hiramoto
- Councilmember Carol Fukunaga
- Cycle Mission
- Fresh Cafe
- Friends of Library of Hawaii
- Hawaii Public Radio
- Howard Hughes Corporation
- Mark Isha Mangrayam
- National Complete Streets Coalition
- Obama Breakout (KPOI, KIMU)
- Progressive Landscaping, Inc.
- Ramblers HI
- Ramblers Route
- The Bike Shop
- University of Hawaii, Dept. of Urban and Regional Planning
- University of Hawaii, School of Architecture
- YMCA
- Dwight, Asa and Orion Iwasa

- Core Planning Committee**
- Natalie Iwasa *
 - Nick Blank *
 - Carol Pezansky *
 - Linda Schatz
 - Daniel Kimmich
 - Meredith Speicher
 - Amanda Corby
 - Joel Lott
- * Official Cycle On Hawaii, the Hele On Kaka'ako

our kaka'ako

A KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT - The Outdoor Circle

KAISER PERMANENTE. thrive

FORESTCITY

Oshu Makerspace

FISHER HAWAII

HAWAII CHAPTER

Green Thumb INCORPORATED

HIHO

START LIVING HEALTHY

STUDIO 2000 PHOTOGRAPHY

WIKI BIKES

Pariket Design Contest Winners
 Group 70 team: Grant Yuen, David Miyasaka, Liisa Takamine, Jeff Swanson, Russ Moulage, Chantel MacIsaac, Ryan Sullivan, Shirley Lam, Ryan Chai, Lisa Doyle, Ruby Yee
 UII School of Architecture students team: Iva, Duanne Pongthuan, Mike Alikuan Poushlo, Paulina Santani Testan, Dayna Vieira, Nguyen Ky Yang
 UII School of Architecture graduate team: Sophosha [at]pau.hawaii.edu

Hele On Kakaako attracted many types of bicyclists and a wide range of community supporters.

We suggest that the counties work with nonprofit organizations for this pilot program. Each county has at least one healthy lifestyles advocacy organization. They would be in a good position to assist with planning as well as providing volunteers.

The bill appropriates \$1 million for each county. If this is just for planning, this may be a little high. Please discuss this in committee.

Please vote "yes" on HB1260.

Sincerely,

Natalie Iwasa, President

Cycle On Hawaii is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization founded in 2012 by a group of advocates for bicyclists. Managed and directed entirely by volunteers, Cycle On Hawaii organizes community events such as Bike and Walk to School Days, cyclovias, bike rodeos for children, bike contests and parades, and educational workshops and presentations on Safe Routes to School.

HB-1260

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 9:10:58 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/13/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tommy Noyes	Kauai Path, Inc.	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please move this bill forward.

There is a need and desire for occasional events that make better public use of our communities' streets for recreational and educational purposes.

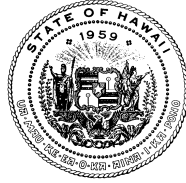
An excellent example of a highly successful recurring event is the Rice Street Block Party in Lihue on Kaua'i. Thousands of people have turned out each time this event's been held, and people love it.

Locally owned small businesses thrive with these events.

This is a win-win concept.

Mahalo for your attention,

Tommy Noyes
Executive Director, Kauai Path, Inc.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
P.O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony in SUPPORT of H.B. 1260
RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION**

REPRESENTATIVE DARIUS K. KILA, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Hearing Date: February 13, 2025

Room Number: Conference Room 430
and Videoconference

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health (DOH) defers to the Department of
- 2 Transportation (DOT) for fiscal implications of implementation.

- 3 **Department Position:** The DOH supports House Bill 1260 (H.B. 1260), which requires each
- 4 county, in collaboration with the DOT to establish a Summer Streets Pilot Program that closes
- 5 vehicular traffic and repurposes roads for pedestrian and cyclist use, outdoor events, and other
- 6 community-driven activities.

- 7 **Department Testimony:** Despite Hawaii's favorable climate, geography, and reputation for
- 8 active outdoor living, only 25% of Hawaii residents, in 2019, met federal guidelines for physical
- 9 activity.¹ The design of roads that integrate options like walking and bicycling is a public health
- 10 concern since the safety and accessibility of a community's built environment can promote or
- 11 hinder physical activity. This includes removing barriers and providing opportunities to cross
- 12 streets safely and conveniently to access destinations such as bus stops, schools, and worksites.
- 13 Safe, accessible, and walkable communities encourage physical activity and can promote better
- 14 health outcomes in communities and whose populations are at less risk for serious chronic

¹ Hawaii Health Data Warehouse, Hawaii State Department of Health, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2019.

1 diseases and conditions such as obesity, heart disease, and diabetes.² Additionally,
2 encouraging walking and biking reduces reliance on motor vehicles, leading to decreased air
3 pollution in the form of vehicular exhaust and non-exhaust emissions such as tire particulate
4 matter.³ This contributes to cleaner air and a healthier environment, addressing both
5 immediate and long-term public health concerns.

6 Unfortunately, safe and accessible places for people to gather and be active are often
7 lacking in under-resourced communities. “Summer Streets” programs, also known as “Open”
8 or “Play Streets” can remedy this by allowing community members to gather, socialize, walk,
9 run, bike, skate, dance, or participate in other activities on streets temporarily closed to
10 motorized traffic. Summer Streets initiatives are one way to combat preventable chronic
11 conditions, in a way that emphasizes community engagement and enjoyment of existing, and
12 often underutilized, municipal infrastructure. If implemented regularly, Summer Streets have
13 been shown to increase rates of physical activity in communities at a relatively low cost to
14 cities.^{4,5}

15 For example, since its inception in 2008, the New York City Summer Streets program
16 found that 24% of attendees who reported that they did not routinely engage in moderate- or
17 vigorous-intensity physical activity would be engaged in the equivalent of 26–68 min of
18 moderate-intensity physical activity at Summer Streets.⁶ Summer Streets served as an
19 enticement for New Yorkers, including those who did not ordinarily meet physical activity
20 recommendations, to engage in physical activity. In a comparable program in St. Louis, MO,
21 over 50% of adult participants surveyed reported achieving 75 min or more of physical activity
22 at the event. In Pennsylvania, 97% of participants in a comparable Open Streets program met

² CDC *About Physical Activity*. 2021.

³ American Lung Association. Health Impact of Pollution | State of the air. (n.d.). <https://www.lung.org/research/sota/health-risks>

⁴ 3 Carlson, J., Sallis, J., Engelberg, J., Black, M., Sanchez, J., & Ryan, S. (2014). Evaluation of San Diego’s First CicloSDias Open Streets Event. [http://sallis.ucsd.edu/Documents/Pubs_documents/cicloSDias%20 full%20report%20FINAL%202_13_2014.pdf](http://sallis.ucsd.edu/Documents/Pubs_documents/cicloSDias%20full%20report%20FINAL%202_13_2014.pdf)

⁵ CicLAvia Research & Evaluation Group: Progress Report 1

⁶ Wolf, S. A., Grimshaw, V. E., Sacks, R., Maguire, T., Matera, C., & Lee, K. K. (2015). The impact of a temporary recurrent street closure on physical activity in New York City. *Journal of Urban Health*, 92(2), 230–241. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11524-014-9925-0>

1 the recommended 30 minutes of daily physical activity⁷ and 39% of participants were found in
2 the same study to have met the recommended 150 minutes of weekly physical activity, in just
3 one day.

4 The DOH, in partnership with the Kauai County Planning Department supports the Kauai
5 Play Streets⁸ program, which, since its inception in 2022, has been successful in expanding
6 access to low-stress activity spaces for keiki and their families to engage in physical activity,
7 particularly in rural communities.

8 By repurposing public assets such as streets, and opening them up to people, Summer
9 Streets programs emphasize active enjoyment in our communities. They also help to normalize
10 active transportation, such as biking and walking, which has potential to increase everyday
11 physical activity. Given this emphasis, Summer Streets programs can benefit participants'
12 health and wellbeing.

13 **Offered Amendments:** None

14 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

15

16

17

⁷ 1 Engelberg, J. K., Carlson, J. A., Black, M. L., Ryan, S., & Sallis, J. F. (2014). Ciclovía participation and impacts in San Diego, CA: The first CicloSDias. *Preventive Medicine*, 69, Supplement, S66–S73

⁸ <https://www.playstreetskauai.com/>



HIPHI Board

May Okihiro, MD, MS
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Department of Pediatrics

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Kaiser Permanente

Dina Shek, JD
Medical-Legal Partnership
For Children in Hawai'i

Garret Sugai
HMSA

JoAnn Tsark, MPH
John A. Burns School of Medicine, Native
Hawaiian Research Office

HIPHI Initiatives

Coalition for a
Tobacco-Free Hawai'i

Community-Based Research &
Evaluation

Community Health
Worker Initiatives

COVID-19 Response

Environmental Health

Hawai'i Drug & Alcohol-Free Coalitions

Hawai'i Farm to School Network

Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition

Hawai'i Public Health Training Hui

Healthy Eating + Active Living

Kūpuna Collective/Healthy Aging &
Community Living

Public Health Workforce Development

Date: February 12, 2025

To: Representative Darius Kila, Chair
Representative Tina Grandinetti, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Transportation

RE: Support for HB1260, Relating to Transportation

Hrg: February 13, 2025, 10:00 AM, Conference Room 430

Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI)¹ **supports HB1260**, which would establish a Summer Streets Pilot Program that closes vehicular traffic and repurposes roads for pedestrian and cyclist use, outdoor events, and other community-driven activities.

Although Hawai'i has a favorable climate, geography, and reputation for active outdoor living, only 24.8% of Hawai'i residents met federal guidelines for physical activity in 2019.² The design of roads that integrate options like walking and bicycling is a public health concern since the safety and accessibility of a community's built environment can promote or hinder physical activity. This includes removing barriers and providing opportunities to cross streets safely and conveniently to access destinations such as bus stops, schools, and worksites.

Safe, accessible, and walkable communities encourage physical activity and can promote better health outcomes in communities whose populations are at less risk for serious chronic diseases and conditions such as obesity, heart disease, and diabetes.³ Additionally, encouraging walking and biking reduces reliance on motor vehicles, leading to decreased air pollution through vehicular exhaust and non-exhaust emissions such as tire particulate matter.⁴ This contributes to cleaner air and a healthier environment, addressing both immediate and long-term public health concerns.

¹ Hawai'i Public Health Institute's mission is to advance health and wellness for the people and islands of Hawai'i. We do this through expanding our understanding of what creates health of people and place, fostering partnerships, and cultivating programs to improve policies, systems, and the environments where people live, learn, work, age, and play.

² Hawaii Health Data Warehouse, Hawaii State Department of Health, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2019.

³ CDC About Physical Activity. 2021.

<https://www.cdc.gov/physical-activity/php/about/index.html>

⁴ American Lung Association. Health Impact of Pollution | State of the air. (n.d.).

<https://www.lung.org/research/sota/health-risks>



Unfortunately, safe and accessible play places are often lacking in under-resourced communities. 'Summer Streets' programs, also known as Open and Play Streets, can remedy this by allowing community members to gather, socialize, walk, run, bike, skate, dance, or participate in other activities on streets temporarily closed to motorized traffic. Open Streets initiatives combat preventable chronic conditions in a way that emphasizes community engagement and enjoyment of existing, and often underutilized, municipal infrastructure. If implemented regularly, Open Streets could increase rates of physical activity in communities at a relatively low cost to cities.

As an example, with regard to the New York City Summer Streets program, in operation since 2008, 24% of attendees who reported that they did not routinely engage in moderate- or vigorous-intensity physical activity would be engaged in the equivalent of 26–68 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity. Summer Streets served as an enticement for New Yorkers, including those who did not ordinarily meet physical activity recommendations, to engage in physical activity.⁵ In a comparable program in St. Louis, MO, over 50% of adult participants surveyed reported achieving 75 minutes or more of physical activity at the event.⁶ For some individuals, a day at Open Streets can provide the recommended minutes of physical activity for one week. Participant surveys also highlight that, in the absence of Open Streets programs, many would otherwise be engaged in sedentary behaviors.⁷

By repurposing public assets such as streets, Open Streets programs emphasize active enjoyment in our communities. They also help to normalize active transportation, such as biking and walking, which has the potential to increase everyday physical activity and uplift participants' health and well-being.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lauren Loor".

Lauren Loor
Healthy Eating + Active Living Statewide Program Manager

⁵ Wolf, S. A., Grimshaw, V. E., Sacks, R., Maguire, T., Matera, C., & Lee, K. K. (2015). The impact of a temporary recurrent street closure on physical activity in New York City. *Journal of Urban Health*, 92(2), 230–241. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11524-014-9925-0>

⁶ Carlson, J., Sallis, J., Engelberg, J., Black, M., Sanchez, J., & Ryan, S. (2014). Evaluation of San Diego's First CicloSDias Open Streets Event. https://activelivingresearch.org/sites/activelivingresearch.org/files/PrevMed2014_Engelberg.pdf

⁷ CicLAvia Research & Evaluation Group: Progress Report 1. 2017. <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC5083970/>



Testimony in Support of a Summer Streets Pilot Program

Committee on Transportation

February 13, 2025

Lisa Dau, RN, Injury Prevention Coordinator

Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition (KIPC)

Rep. Darius Kila, Chair, Rep. Tina Grandinetti, Vice-Chair, and members of the committee,

My name is Lisa Dau, and I am representing the Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition in strong support of HB1260 to establish a Summer Streets Pilot Program in each county, in collaboration with the Department of Transportation. This initiative represents an important step toward creating more vibrant, healthy, and connected communities across our state.

This legislation offers a unique opportunity to pilot this concept in Hawaii. I believe this program will have a positive impact on our communities in several key ways:

- **Promoting Active Transportation by** encouraging walking and cycling, improving public health, and reducing reliance on cars. This can lead to decreased traffic, improved air quality, and increased physical activity among residents.
- **Boosting Local Economies** by creating a pedestrian-friendly environment that can attract foot traffic to local businesses, stimulating economic activity.
- **Strengthening Community Connections** by creating public spaces where people can gather, socialize, and participate in community events.
- **Enhancing Quality of Life** by prioritizing people over cars, creating a more livable and enjoyable environment.

The requirement for each county to submit an initial proposal to the Director of Transportation ensures a collaborative and well-planned approach that allows flexibility and customization to meet each community's needs. The appropriation funds are crucial for the successful implementation of investing in our public spaces and the well-being of our residents.

I urge the committee to consider this legislation and pass HB1260.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lisa Dau, RN, MBA, BSN, CPSTI

KIPC, Injury Prevention Coordinator

The Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition's (KIPC) mission is to prevent and reduce injuries to children in Hawaii. <https://kipchawaii.org/>

HB-1260

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 10:36:45 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/13/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frank Schultz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this initiative.

We don't have enough pedestrian areas for community gatherings and obtaining permits to close down areas is time consuming.

HB-1260

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 11:32:13 AM

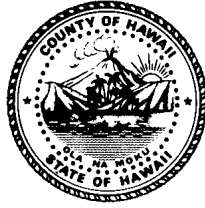
Testimony for TRN on 2/13/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Weissman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a biker and strongly support HB1260, to further the safety and encourage the adoption of biking as an alternative means of travel in Hawaii.

Jennifer Kagiwada
Council Member District 2 South Hilo



Office: (808) 961-8272
jennifer.kagiwada@hawaiicounty.gov

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 2

25 Aupuni Street • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

DATE: February 11, 2025
TO: House Committees on Transportation
FROM: Jennifer Kagiwada, Council Member
Council District 2
SUBJECT: HB 1260

Aloha Chair Kila, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of HB 1260, requiring each county, in collaboration with the Department of Transportation to establish a Summer Streets Pilot Program that closes vehicular traffic and repurposes roads for pedestrian and cyclist use, outdoor events, and other community-driven activities. Additionally, this bill requires each county to submit an initial proposal to the Director of Transportation.

As the Council Member for Hilo I am looking forward to this opportunity to bring additional economic revitalization to our downtown Hilo area. I have already begun having meetings with various Department heads and community stakeholders to determine where the best site might be to host a Summer Street in Hilo. The feedback so far has been well received.

This legislation is in alignment with our [County of Hawai'i Complete Streets Policy – Res. 11-171](#) as well as our [EnVision Downtown Hilo 2025](#) plan and I ask for your support in passing this bill.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jenn Kagiwada".

Jenn Kagiwada

HB-1260

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 12:11:57 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/13/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
STEVEN DEPAOLI	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kakou,

As a long time resident of greater Honolulu(Kaimuki) I'm in full support for HB1260 for the following reasons:

- Public Health benefits-encouraging exercise among our population
- Public Safety benefits-this bill ties to both our adopted Honolulu Pedestrian plan & Vision Zero Action plan
- Economic benefits-Open/Summer Streets should encourage physical activity, engagement,rivitalization of publicspaces(China Town needs big time)

Mahalo nui for your consideration,

Steve DePaolio

HB-1260

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 10:10:24 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/13/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Annie Liu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I'm writing in strong support of the Summer Streets Pilot Program. My favorite days to bike are on low-traffic Sunday mornings and during the HBL Annual Century ride, when there is clear signage and traffic redirection to protect bikers' safety. A big obstacle to biking is the threat of traffic and the dangers implicit in sharing a road with large vehicles, frequently with speeding or inobservant drivers. The Summer Streets Pilot Program offers a fun way for the community to share safe streets and enjoy space in an urban environment to bike. I ask the committee to pass the measure and look forward to the day the program launches!

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Annie

HB-1260

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 10:22:02 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/13/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chad K Taniguchi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Streets are public property and should be used to benefit public health and recreation in addition to transportation.

Hawaii's climate allows for "summer streets" all year around. Please consider encouraging such programs throughout the year as appropriate. Similar programs are on weekends.

HB-1260

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 10:42:45 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/13/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JONATHAN LOTT	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I was involved in a closed-streets "cyclovia" event in Kakaako back in May of 2013. It was very well attended and popular. Streets around Mother Waldron Park were closed to cars and had temporary bike and pedestrian-friendly features. The open streets events on Kalakaua Ave during covid were also very popular. More please!

-Jon, car-free since 2005, Waikiki Vulnerable Road User

HB-1260

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 11:33:02 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/13/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kyle Kolomona Nakatsuka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is awesome. Do it.

HB-1260

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 2:26:18 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/13/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Tipton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write to support this bill.

One of the few bright spots during the covid shutdowns was when the city closed parts of Kalakaua Ave in Waikiki to vehicles. My family, among many others, flocked in droves to bike and walk while enjoying the beauty of the ocean without having to worry about our safety or be bothered by excessively loud car motors or radios. We also took the occasion to dine at the restaurants and cafes - cars don't buy food, people do.

HB-1260

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 4:56:46 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/13/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Edgardo Diaz Vega	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I encourage you to vote in favor of this amazing proposal. Converting our streets to recreational activities during the summer will benefit all of our society by giving residents a chance to enjoy walking and cycling through roads which otherwise would be restricted to motor vehicles. Even though this would be temporary in nature, the benefits would be wide ranging, helping people improve their health through exercise and allowing children to connect with others in their neighborhood, resulting in lifelong memories of a summer where they could play in the streets without having to worry about oncoming traffic. We frequently associate our roads as a problem to overcome by driving faster or time wasted while reaching our final destination. But roads are public spaces meant to be enjoyed by all, not just a means to an end. An open streets program would allow residents to reclaim road space to enjoy the beauty and nature of Hawai'i.

HB-1260

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 8:33:16 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/13/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Bernstein	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kila and members of the TRN committee:

I'm writing in **strong support** of HB1260. If we are to move to a more resilient, healthier, and lower carbon environment, people need to envision how this can happen. It's difficult for us to change our behavior, especially when it comes to our car first culture. This bill would provide the opportunity for many people to see what could be and the benefits from making changes to our transportation system.

When I first worked in downtown Honolulu, I drove my car to work every day. A colleague of mine asked why I didn't take the bus. He said the bus fare is much less than parking, and the commute is more relaxing since you don't need to deal with traffic. I gave it a try. At first, I missed having my own space and the freedom to leave work at any time. But I eventually got into the habit of taking TheBus, and I became hooked. Now I had extra time in my day: I could read, take a nap, or even do work on a bad day. I would've never made the switch if I weren't prodded to do so. I believe that HB1260 will provide the necessary prodding to some people to have them transition to a more sustainable method of transportation.

Please pass HB1260 out of your committee.

Mahalo,

Paul Bernstein

HB-1260

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 12:23:14 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/13/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eileen M Gawrys	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB1260! The Summer Streets Pilot program will be a wonderful opportunity to promote healthy and happy living for all.



February 12, 2025

Testimony in Support of HB1260 and SB1666 – Summer Streets Pilot Program

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the **Maui Bicycling League** in strong support of **SB1666**, which establishes a **Summer Streets Pilot Program** in each county of Hawaii. This initiative is an essential step toward creating healthier, more connected communities by temporarily repurposing streets for public use, encouraging walking, biking, and community engagement.

Why SB1666 Matters: Addressing Hawaii’s Health and Mobility Challenges

Despite Hawaii’s **favorable climate, geography, and reputation** for outdoor living, **only 24.8% of Hawaii residents** met federal guidelines for physical activity in 2019. This statistic underscores the urgent need for community initiatives that promote **safe and accessible spaces** for walking, biking, and outdoor activities.

- **Health and Well-being:** Walkable, bikeable communities help **reduce rates of chronic illnesses** such as obesity, heart disease, and diabetes. Programs like Summer Streets provide opportunities for **physical activity in a fun and accessible way**, particularly in communities that lack safe recreational spaces.
- **Air Quality & Environmental Impact:** Encouraging walking and biking **reduces reliance on motor vehicles**, leading to cleaner air and **lower levels of pollution** from vehicle emissions and tire particulate matter.
- **Equity & Accessibility:** Many **under-resourced communities** lack access to **safe play spaces**. Summer Streets programs address this disparity by **repurposing public assets—our streets—for the benefit of all residents**, regardless of income level.

Success of Open Streets Programs Nationwide

Summer Streets and **Open Streets initiatives have been proven effective** in major cities:

- **New York City’s Summer Streets Program (since 2008):** Surveys show that **24% of participants** who typically do not meet physical activity guidelines **achieve 26–68 minutes** of moderate activity during these events.
- **St. Louis, MO:** Over **50% of participants reported achieving 75 minutes or more** of physical activity at Open Streets events—**a full week’s recommended activity in a single day**.
- **San Diego CicloSDias & Los Angeles CicLAvia:** Research confirms that Open Streets events promote sustained **engagement in physical activity**, reduce traffic congestion, and increase community cohesion.

The Potential for Hawaii: Summer Streets as a Low-Cost, High-Impact Solution

By temporarily **closing streets to cars and opening them to people**, SB1666 can **redefine how we use public space**. It encourages residents to **walk, bike, skate, and engage in active transportation**, making **physical activity a natural part of daily life**.

In addition to **health and environmental benefits**, Summer Streets programs:

- **Encourage local business growth** by driving foot traffic to shops and restaurants.
- **Promote community connections**, making our neighborhoods more vibrant and resilient.
- **Enhance road safety**, reinforcing a culture of shared streets.

Maui Bicycling League Strongly Supports SB1666

As an organization committed to **advocating for safe and accessible biking and pedestrian infrastructure**, the **Maui Bicycling League fully supports** the passage of SB1666. Investing in active transportation and community engagement through initiatives like Summer Streets will **create lasting benefits for public health, local businesses, and Hawaii's environment**.

We respectfully urge the committee to **pass SB1666** and establish Hawaii's **first-ever Summer Streets Pilot Program** to support healthier, safer, and more connected communities.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Mahalo for your efforts in helping to create a Bicycle-Friendly community on Maui.

Saman Dias



Chair Maui Bicycling League

www.mauibike.org

[Follow us on Facebook](#)

Email – maui@hbl.org

Tel# - 808-209-2542

HB-1260

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 5:31:31 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/13/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicholas Manago	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Committee Members,

I strongly support SB 1666.

Thank you for all you do for our community.

Mahalo,

Nick

HB-1260

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 8:37:24 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/13/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
DOUGLAS CONCHA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Douglas Concha. I am a resident of Makiki and an avid cyclist. Last year, I completed a world record for circumnavigation around the world on a bicycle. I was able to see the best and worst conditions for cycling across six continents, including, several cities that have implemented bicycle-only days. Two cities in particular stand out: Bogota, Colombia and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. I was fortunate enough to see both cities while cycling around the world and was very impressed with how it brought out thousands of residents, specifically, family. Men, women, children came to both the events on opposite sides of the world to share in the joy of being outdoors, being active, spending time with family, and to eat and drink from the many vendors that also came out to take part in a day free from cars. I believe that both cities and their inhabitants benefited from this experiences, and I know that if Honolulu implemented the same thing that it would achieve success measured by the quality of life for its citizens. Thank you.

HB-1260

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 8:41:49 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/13/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Wiencek	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

Let's reclaim our communities. Let's reclaim them from autocentric development. Prompting more street festivals is a great way to build community bonds and increase positive social activity. I urge this Committee to SUPPORT this bill!

HB-1260

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 9:31:21 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/13/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kayla Jones	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this proposal and recommend you vote in favour of opening the island's streets for a wider variety of uses over the summer. Open streets help children do physical activity outside allowing them to get fresh air. Long indoor periods for children result in many issues including social isolation, decline in eyesight from frequent use of technology, and lack of sufficient sunshine. Mental health improves with social interaction, with face to face encounters decreasing the levels of anxiety, disorders and stress. Open roads help shape happier and healthier children. Children belong playing outside and should be given more opportunities to enjoy the outdoors. Hawai'i has the perfect weather for better use of the existing roads.