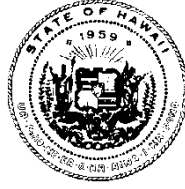


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR



DEAN MINAKAMI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM
HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
677 QUEEN STREET, SUITE 300
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
FAX: (808) 587-0600

Statement of
DEAN MINAKAMI
Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation
Before the

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING
AND
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION**

January 30, 2025 at 9:50 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 430

In consideration of
H.B. 157
RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION.

Chairs Evslin and Kila, Vice Chairs Miyake and Grandinetti, and members of the Committees.

HHFDC has comments on HB 157, which requires the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC) to transfer the public roads of the Villages of Kapolei to the City and County of Honolulu by January 1, 2026. It also authorizes county police officers to enforce the statewide traffic code on all public streets, roadways, and highways within the State.

This bill attempts to address a 30-year-old problem that has existed at the Villages of Kapolei (VOK), where the City and County of Honolulu has not accepted the dedication of infrastructure improvements constructed by an HHFDC predecessor agency. While the City enjoys the real property tax revenues derived in part from the State's infrastructure improvements, HHFDC is forced to maintain those same improvements at an average cost to the Dwelling Unit Revolving Fund of more than \$1,000,000 per year. The cost will soon increase to about \$10,000,000 per year to pay for the necessary road rehabilitation work at VOK.

These are funds that could be used for the development of new housing units and infrastructure for affordable housing throughout the State.

HHFDC is more than willing to transfer the roads and other infrastructure to the City and County of Honolulu; however, we would not be able to fulfill the requirement of the bill if the City is unwilling to accept the roads.

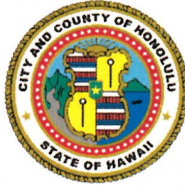
HHFDC supports the provision that specifies that county police officers have the authority to enforce violations on any federal, state, and county street, roadway, or highway.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
KE KE'ENA O KA MEIA
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

530 SOUTH KING STREET, ROOM 300 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
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RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR
MEIA



MICHAEL D. FORMBY
MANAGING DIRECTOR
PO'O HO'OKELE

KRISHNA F. JAYARAM
DEPUTY MANAGING DIRECTOR
HOPE PO'O HO'OKELE

January 29, 2025

The Honorable Luke A. Evslin, Chair
The Honorable Tyson K. Miyake, Vice Chair
and Members of the House Committee on Housing
The Honorable Darius K. Kila, Chair
The Honorable Tina Nakada Grandinetti, Vice Chair
and Members of the House Committee on Transportation
House of Representatives
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs Evslin and Kila, Vice Chairs Miyake and Grandinetti, and Members of the House Committees on Housing and on Transportation:

Subject: HB157 – Relating to Transportation

The City and County of Honolulu (City) has been diligently meeting and negotiating with the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC) on the transfer of the roads within the Villages of Kapolei (roads). These discussions included assessments by City departments of non-conforming conditions and the remedial actions, including costs, necessary for the City to address these nonconformities in accepting dedication.

In 2024, I personally met with the Executive Director of HHFDC and, after negotiations, we came to a verbal agreement for the City to accept the roads, with the City agreeing to accept a \$20M discount on the assessed value of remedial work at \$80M. The City agreed to accept \$60M, a discounted assessed value, especially in light of increased costs associated with future remedial action that will be required to address these nonconformities.

Subsequent to our verbal agreement, which was to be memorialized by the parties, the City was informed HHFDC was told to reduce the settlement amount to \$40M. The City is prepared to consummate the transfer of roads to the City at the agreed upon discounted value of \$60M and is also willing to discuss payment options with HHFDC.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael D. Formby".

Michael D. Formby
Managing Director Designate

HB-157

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 1:56:28 PM

Testimony for HSG on 1/30/2025 9:50:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Crystal Germano | Villages of Kapolei Association | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in strong SUPPORT of HB157.

I serve in community engagement for the Villages of Kapolei Association. Over the years, there has always been issues with the roads, signage, parking, landscaping, street sweeping, maintenance, and safety on the HHFDC parcels. We get multiple calls and emails about this issue, daily and weekly. I am aware that the roads under the jurisdiction of HHFDC. This is what makes it very hard to get the services that the residents of the Villages of Kapolei need. The 311 app that is recommended for use has even turned away our residents reporting these issues.

For years, the GIS maps were incorrect and the roads were all labeled with incorrect ownership of the roads. We worked hard alongside the residents and neighborhood security watch group to fix the maps, which the Department of Planning and Permitting finally did at the ending of 2024. Now the maps indicate that the roads are under HHFDC; however, maintained by the City & County.

The master plan for the Villages of Kapolei tells us that these particular parcels on the bill will be turned over to the City & County by 2030. I am in support of this bill because it allows for a shorter window for the turnover to happen - by 2026. This would be wonderful for the residents and public because they would have access to the 311 app and other City & County services like the rest of the state has. There also would not be an issue with getting important and much needed services for the Villages of Kapolei such as HPD, abandoned vehicle towing, landscaping, potholes, sign replacement, and so forth.

We are encouraged by this bill because we've been advocating for the residents and want them to get the services they rightfully deserve as tax paying citizens. This bill would help us to move forward with the completion of Villages of Kapolei, and give the community a resource to turn to when they need help with road issues in the Villages of Kapolei. We understand that HHFDC is trying to move the process along and with this bill, hopefully it will support them in moving forward with their process too.

Mahalo for the chance we are given to tesify in support of this bill and we encourage everyone to act on it for the benefit of the community.

Sincerely,

Crystal Germano

Testimony in support of HB157
By Sandra Jamora

I am a longtime resident here in the Villages of Kapolei, in the oldest village of Kumuiki. I have also been an employee of the association since 1996 and am the current general manager.

Our streets are currently owned by the state of Hawaii (HHFDC) who is the declarant. We were developed out of a vision by Governor Waihee in the 1980s with the project goal to provide a majority of affordable housing for the people of Hawaii. To this aim, the state desired to build quickly with an agreement for the city & county of Honolulu to assume the roadways once they were done. Changes in administration prevented that from happening and the residents here then suffered through many years of contention between the two government entities.

Currently, we have many problems with HPD refusing to provide non-emergency services here such as ticketing and towing. Response when calling 911 has been hit or miss; some officers will try to help, some will refuse to cite. Some of the reasons we have been given are: the officers themselves will be fined for ticketing on private roads, the judges will throw out tickets on non-city and county roads, they have no jurisdiction and the state should come in and deal with the problem.

Some of the issues caused by illegal vehicles are car campers who defecate and urinate in the area, throw trash out the window, and harass people walking by. We have three schools in the area and many parents who are concerned for their children's safety. We have vehicles parked across crosswalks and around corners inhibiting the safety of pedestrians and blocking view planes. We have derelict and abandoned vehicles sitting rusted and falling apart, taking usable space from our residents.

In the mid-2000s an appeal was made to Mayor Mufi Hannemann by our general manager at that time, Warren Wegesend. Mayor Hannemann understood our concerns and our rights to city services as tax paying citizens and he arranged for HPD to ticket and tow in VOKA. We enjoyed services for many years after that but now, again, we find ourselves neglected. And, not for want of effort on our part. Two years ago we started working with the DPP asking them to update the GIS maps to show that the roads were not private, but state-owned. These are the maps HPD uses to determine ownership status. Those maps have been wrong for many years. DPP said this was low-priority and would be handled when they had time. We then worked with the city on updating the Alanui maps to reflect correct ownership. This was completed. We were told by HPD that the Alanui maps would be useless if not accepted by the prosecutor's office and recognized by the courts. I spoke to Prosecutor Steve Alm at a town hall meeting about a year and a half ago, expressing our desire to ensure judicial support. Then we were told that some HPD computers could not pull up and access the Alanui maps on a consistent basis. In the meantime, the GIS maps have been updated to show state ownership of the roads but we continue to be denied city services.

Lastly, I would call your attention to the Revised Ordinances of Honolulu, Section 15-1.1, which marks the beginning of Chapter 15 Traffic Code, and which states in part, "...private streets, highways, or thoroughfares which for six months or more have been continuously used by the general public or which are intended for dedication to the public use... and are open for public travel but have not yet been accepted by the city... this chapter may be cited as the traffic code of the City and County of Honolulu."

I support HB157 and implore you to give us the services we pay for and deserve, like every other tax paying citizen. We have suffered for too long on issues that affect our safety and well-being.

HB-157

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 7:02:16 PM

Testimony for HSG on 1/30/2025 9:50:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Darren Holbrook | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I am in Support of HB157.

I have lived in the Villages of Kapolei, VOK, for the past 14 years. I have seen the increase in issues with roads, signage, parking and safety. I have been a member of the Neighborhood Security Watch, NSW, for the past 15 months and have observed and fought for police presence on our roads. I am aware that the roads are private and maintained by HFFDC and have been frustrated with HPD saying they don't have jurisdiction because it is a private road. We can't even get our roads paved within the villages, but we continue to pay property taxes to the city & county.

All the roads in VOK are owned by the State (HHFDC) and we've been advocating for them to fix the map for almost a year now. DPP finally got back to us in November of 2024 and they fixed most of the GIS map: <https://geoportal.hawaii.gov/datasets/roads-honolulu-county/explore>

We finally got the MAPS changed by Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) to reflect the roads are not private roads and now we get told by the Motor Vehicle Control Divison, MVC, that "To my Department's knowledge, there has been no indication or discussion to date with DPP about conducting law enforcement activities on roads not owned by the City. I'm not sure why the State sought ownership of these roads instead of the City, but the reasons for that are likely out of my wheelhouse as well. Regarding the maintenance issue, things like road repair, street sweeping and junk removal would fall under that category; law enforcement is a different matter, and jurisdictional/liability issues must be considered. Therefore, I have been instructed to cease and desist from further enforcement activity in Villages of Kapolei until instructed otherwise by my Department.'

Before we could submit an abandoned car report online but now MVC does not handle it. Recently it was determined we could not report abandon cars on the C&C website. The only recourse we have is to call 911 non-emergency and have a HPD Officer come out sometime and talk to the offender or they just drive away. The vehicles never move.

DPP changed a lot of the roads to reflect "State" roads versus "private" roads, but they still forgot to change some. However, when you click on it, I noticed that they added in that the city is the "maintainer" so I'm assuming that means that the city must do their services now such as ticketing, etc. But according to a MVC Inspector, he does not see it as we do. As stated above he

thinks since the roads are State owned then they don't have jurisdiction over it, and they are so busy they will not service our area any longer.

With the recent fireworks tragedy on new year's it shows that illegal parking can interfere with emergency responders. Parking in front of fire hydrants, parking in cul-de-sacs, expired safety and vehicle registration, parking on sidewalks, parking in unmarked cross walks, all continues to make our community unsafe. I urge you to take this matter seriously and support HB 157.

HB-157

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 10:54:16 AM

Testimony for HSG on 1/30/2025 9:50:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Cheryl Castro | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

HB157 Villages of Kapolei Road Transfer

I, Cheryl Castro, resident of Kapolei since 1994 and Neighborhood Security Watch Lead Since April 2024. Due to the rapid growth of the community, there is a need for the HB157 to pass.

It is frustrating as a Neighborhood Security Watch Lead to not know where and who can help when I report abandoned cars. I am told by Villages of Kapolei, City and County and HPD that each does not have jurisdiction to remove abandoned cars until the roads are released from HHFDC.

I am also in support to HB157 because I believe that the release of the roads will lead to the repair of the roads that are currently deteriorating.

Thank you for your consideration to HB157.

Mahalo,

Cheryl Castro

HB-157

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 2:38:02 PM

Testimony for HSG on 1/30/2025 9:50:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|-------------------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| claudia c k quintanilla | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Kakou,

I support HB157.

I'm a resident of Kapolei-Kaupe'a Hawaiian Homestead since January of 2007. I'm currently a volunteer for the Kaupe'a Neighborhood Security Watch(NSW) since 2014.

Joining forces with other NSWs w/in our Kapolei villages has been a wonderful experience doing our best to bring awareness of street safety & responsibilities.

This is exactly what this bill is about. We need to have our roads turned over to the City & County of Honolulu.

We value & deserve to continue the quality of life & safety. All what we want is to make sure all perspective agencies know what we intend to do & that is by keeping up the value of our neighborhood.

Working w/HPD Special community division has been amazing, yet it's not enough. It's obvious HPD is in need for support as stated in this bill. Identified district boundaries on our streets has been difficult to address emergency calls with limited officers. The street parking is a large part of this issues for protection & safety. Vehicles that aren't being used causes several opportunities unseen. Like the homeless r using vehicles as a place to sleep in, possible burglaries, illegal & expired tags, parking spaces taken up which causes the working class to park farther away from their residence especially late nights, less street parking for park users, & causing low Real Estate value.

As a tax payer living in Kapolei for 17yrs, I feel City & County has had enough years to provide the "rights" of our people. Please pass HB157.

Mahalo Nui Loa

Claudia CK Quintanilla

resident of Kapolei

Kaue‘a Hawaiian Homestead Land

HB-157

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 11:18:54 AM

Testimony for HSG on 1/30/2025 9:50:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Andria Tupola | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

January 29, 2025

Committee on Housing

Rep. Luke A. Evslin, Chair

Rep. Tyson K. Miyake, Vice Chair

Committee on Transportation

Rep. Darius K. Kila, Chair

Rep. Tina Nakada Grandinetti, Vice Chair

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 157 (2025)

Aloha Chairs Evslin and Kila, Vice Chairs Miyake and Grandinetti, and Members of the Committees,

I strongly support HB 157, which mandates the transfer of roads within the Villages of Kapolei from the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC) to the City and County of Honolulu by January 1, 2026.

For years, unresolved road ownership has left residents in uncertainty regarding maintenance, repairs, and overall infrastructure management. My district, which includes parts of Kapolei, has long struggled with inconsistent road conditions due to jurisdictional uncertainty.

Additionally, this bill authorizes county police officers to enforce the statewide traffic code on all public streets, roadways, and highways within Hawai'i. This will likely improve road safety and may open up opportunities for infrastructure upgrades and improvements that align with the broader development plans for the Ewa and Kapolei areas.

Another pressing issue is the presence of more than 20 abandoned vehicles that neither the City nor HHFDC has been able to remove. Our office is stepping in to help where we can, but a clear resolution of road ownership will provide the authority needed to properly address this ongoing problem.

I urge the committee to pass this bill and move forward with this essential road transfer. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Andria Tupola, Ph.D.

Honolulu City Councilmember, District 1

‘Ēwa Beach, Kapolei, Nānākuli, Wai‘anae