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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION - Tuesday, March 25, 2025 – 9:10am

Hawai'i Bicycling League Supports HCR177/HR173, relating to Summer Streets

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

My name is Travis Counsell and I am the Executive 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.

HBL strongly supports HCR177, which encourages the City & County of Honolulu to initiate a Summer Streets pilot program. This initiative aligns with our mission to make Hawai'i a safer, more accessible, and bicycle-friendly place for all.

Open streets events, such as Summer Streets, temporarily close roads to vehicular traffic and open them to people walking, biking, and rolling. These programs have been successfully implemented in cities worldwide, providing substantial social, economic, and public health benefits, including:

- **Safer Streets for All** – By creating car-free corridors, Open Streets events allow people of all ages and abilities to experience our streets without the fear of traffic-related harm. Families, keiki, and kūpuna can enjoy outdoor activities in a safe and welcoming environment.
- **Encouraging Active Transportation** – Events like this promote biking and walking as viable modes of transportation, fostering a culture of sustainable mobility and reducing reliance on cars.
- **Community Building & Economic Benefits** – Open streets create vibrant public spaces, bringing communities together and providing a boost to local businesses by increasing foot and bike traffic.
- **Health & Well-being** – Physical activity is essential for public health, and Open Streets events encourage movement in a fun and engaging way. Participants are more likely to continue biking and walking beyond the event itself.
- **Environmental Impact** – By temporarily reducing car travel, open streets events contribute to improved air quality and reduced carbon emissions, supporting broader sustainability goals.

HBL has long advocated for safer, more accessible streets across O'ahu, and we are encouraged by the opportunity to see this vision come to life through the Summer Streets pilot program. Additionally, we support broader legislative efforts such as SB1666 and HB1260, which would establish this initiative across all counties in Hawai'i.

We urge the committee to pass HCR177 and support the expansion of open streets programs to enhance mobility, community well-being, and sustainability for all residents of Honolulu.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Ride Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Travis Counsell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the beginning.

Travis Counsell
Executive Director
Hawai'i Bicycling League

HR-173

Submitted on: 3/21/2025 2:34:18 PM

Testimony for TRN on 3/25/2025 9:10:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support this initiative.

HR-173

Submitted on: 3/22/2025 9:55:37 AM

Testimony for TRN on 3/25/2025 9:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natalie Graham-Wood	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HCR177 and HR113. My name is Natalie Graham-Wood and I live at Sunset Beach, Oahu.