

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF  
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION:**

*URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, AND CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF KIPAPA ELEMENTARY STUDENTS USING SCHOOL CROSSWALKS.*

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dr. Jhameel Duarte, proud Principal of Kīpapa Elementary School, and I am submitting this testimony in **strong support** of the resolution urging the Department of Transportation, Department of Education, and the City and County of Honolulu to take immediate action to ensure the safety of Kīpapa Elementary School students who utilize the Kuahelani Avenue crosswalk.

As the resolution rightly notes, pedestrian safety is a pressing concern not only in Hawaii but nationwide. In 2022 alone, over 7,500 pedestrians lost their lives and more than 67,000 were injured in traffic-related incidents, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. These tragic numbers are a sobering reminder that even a single moment of driver distraction or poor road design can lead to irreversible consequences—especially for our keiki.

Kuahelani Avenue is a heavily traveled road, serving as a connector to a major highway and a key thoroughfare in Mililani. Its proximity to Kīpapa Elementary School poses a daily risk for young children and their families who must navigate this crosswalk on foot. The current configuration—while featuring painted stripes and crossing guards—remains inadequate given the road's curve, high traffic volume, and obstructed visibility due to parked vehicles. The school currently places our own cones and signage to help notify drivers of students and school zones, but these are still not enough. On a daily basis, our school staff and students are fearful to cross because of the speed many vehicles are taking.

Federal guidelines from the U.S. Department of Transportation emphasize the need for enhanced visibility features in areas where standard crosswalks do not offer sufficient protection. This resolution appropriately calls for these critical safety upgrades, including:

- **Warning signage well in advance of the curve on Kuahelani Avenue,**
- **Installation of speed bumps with corresponding signage,**
- **A "STOP Here for Pedestrians" sign placed approximately 50 feet ahead of the crosswalk, and**
- **Solar-powered rapid flashing beacons provide visual cues to approaching drivers.**

These are proven, evidence-based measures that significantly reduce vehicle speeds and increase driver awareness. Studies have shown that speed bumps can reduce driver speed by up to 40%, which in turn can reduce the risk of injury or death by up to 60%.

We cannot wait for a preventable tragedy to occur. The safety of our keiki must always be a top priority, and this resolution provides a responsible and effective path forward to protect our most vulnerable road users.

I respectfully urge you to support this resolution and to advocate for swift implementation of these safety measures at the Kīpapa Elementary crosswalk. Let us demonstrate our commitment to safe, walkable communities and ensure that every child can get to and from school without fear.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jhameel Duarte  
Principal, Kīpapa Elementary School  
95-076 Kīpapa Drive, Miiilani, HI 96789  
(808) 305-4200

**HR-131**

Submitted on: 3/22/2025 11:09:29 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rudy Domingo Jr.	Kipapa Elementary	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

It is with great concern as the Administrator that does the crossing guard on the street. That we add safety measures to help slow vehicles down during all hours of the day. I along with my other person I alternate with as crossing guard have been nearly hit numerous times despite holding an 18-inch diameter stop sign. We have been yelled and sworn at because we do a bad job, but we are just keeping are students and their parents safe when they cross the streets. Please take this testimony seriously because I am that guy out there holding that stop sign mostly every morning and afternoon. If it is not me then it is another staff member.

**HR-131**

Submitted on: 3/21/2025 2:33:49 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Frank Schultz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this initiative.

**HR-131**

Submitted on: 3/21/2025 2:38:33 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Terri Yoshinaga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

**HR-131**

Submitted on: 3/21/2025 3:09:11 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jennifer Metrose	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HR131

**HR-131**

Submitted on: 3/22/2025 4:36:32 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Judy Ilar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support to keep our children safe. I'm not sure why we need a law for this. This should be common sense.

Aloha,

I am writing this email on behalf of the students, families, and staff of Kipapa Elementary School, where I serve as the community representative and chairperson for the school community council.

During our school community council meeting on Wednesday, December 13, 2023, our student representatives brought up a safety issue involving the crosswalk on Kuahelani Avenue outside of Kipapa Elementary School. This identified crosswalk is a high-risk area due to the number of cars that exceed the speed limit when driving through. On any given morning prior to school and afternoon immediately after school, I counted at least 12-14 cars possibly exceeding the speed limit within a 15-minute timeframe. Although there are speed limit signs on both sides of the crosswalk it is rarely observed. I do realize it is nearly impossible to monitor the speed at which people drive.

During our school community council meeting held on Wednesday, January 8, 2025, the item came up again, and this time the item was described as getting significantly worse. I am worried someone could get hurt due to the excessive speed of cars in the area. We need your support to help ensure safety measures are put in place to avoid potential disasters.

We are asking for your support in:

- Possibly getting two flashing school zone speed limit signs installed near this sidewalk, one about 50 yards up from the crosswalk and one about 50 yards down from the crosswalk.
- Possibly installing a speed hump in the area.
- Other alternatives.
- These flashing signs or speed hump would provide drivers with an additional visual and/or physical reminder of slowing down for children and families.

Please let me know if you have any questions and/or if you would like to discuss them further.

Mahalo,  
Keola Taniguchi  
Kipapa Elementary School Community Council Chairperson

**HR-131**

Submitted on: 3/24/2025 6:39:58 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Arianda Colin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**I am testifying in support of this bill. And I urge our legislators to please support the Bill.**

**I am a parent at Kipapa Elementary, in the city of Mililani.**

**For years, I have seen students, parents and even the school crossing guards very nearly get hit and run over by speeding cars at the crosswalk, including my children and myself, 3 times to be exact. This crosswalk is behind the school, and is a second entryway to the school campus on Kuahelani Ave. Please note that there is also a blind curve from one of the directions, that is right before the crosswalk, in which it makes it even more dangerous because the drivers cannot see the approaching crosswalk.**

**I am pleading with urgency for this bill to pass, so that a resolution to this dangerous matter can be resolved, as I would hate to see anyone get seriously hurt or lose their life, due to this very unsafe crosswalk, that is desperately requiring a safety enhancement of more than just a few stripes painted on the street or a cross guard standing in the middle of the street.**

**Thank you for your attention to this very important matter.**

**HR-131**

Submitted on: 3/24/2025 8:45:31 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rae Shinsato	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Very dangerous spending. Needs more safety measures

**HR-131**

Submitted on: 3/24/2025 4:04:08 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kori Oros	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support this resolution. In my time here teaching at Kipapa, I have seen multiple accidents on Kuahelani. One incident, was a car driving around the curve and then hitting a teacher's car that regularly parks on the side of the road. Needless to say, after a decade of parking there, she never parked on Kuahelani again.

Speedbumps would be an extreme help.

Mahalo

Kori Ann Harvey Oros

Kipapa Teacher