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**COUNTY COUNCIL**  
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September 7, 2021

TO: Commissioner Jonathan Likeke Scheuer, Chair; Commissioner Edmund Aczon, Vice Chair; Commissioner Dan Giovanni, Vice Chair; Commissioner Dawn N.S. Chang; Commissioner Lee Ohigashi; Commissioner Gary Y. Okuda; Commissioner Nancy Cabral; Commissioner Arnold Wong

FROM: Kelly Takaya King,  
Councilmember for the South Maui District

DATE: September 7, 2021

SUBJECT: **OPPOSITION TO SEPTEMBER 8, 2021 AGENDA ITEM V: ACTION A11-794 STATE OF HAWAII, DEPT. OF EDUCATION – (KIHEI HIGH School) (MAUI)**

- **TO CONSIDER PETITIONER’S MOTION TO AMEND THE LUC’S FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND DECISION AND ORDER FILED JULY 29, 2013.**
- **TO CONSIDER PETITIONER’S REQUEST FOR THE ISSUANCE OF WRITTEN FINDINGS AS TO ITS AUGUST 20, 2020 MOTION TO AMEND THE LAND USE COMMISSION’S FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND DECISION AND ORDER FILED JULY 29, 2013.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify regarding this critical issue. The South Maui Community continues to request that an underpass be constructed for pedestrians and bicyclists to enable safe passage to cross Pi‘ilani Highway near Kihei High School. The best location for the underpass has been determined to be at Waipu‘ilani Gulch.

An underpass in this location is vitally important as it would serve as safe and convenient access for Kihei High School and Kihei Charter School staff and students, in addition to serving the South Maui community as a whole in connection with pedestrian and bicycle paths. The *Safe Routes to Kihei High School: Pedestrian Route Study (2014)* (“Safe Routes”), at pp. 7-8, recommended an underpass due to local topography and community input. [https://gokihei.org/wp-content/uploads/WALC-Institute\\_Kihei-High-School-Pedestrian-Route-Report\\_Draft-June-2014\\_High-Resolution\\_Packaged\\_sm.pdf](https://gokihei.org/wp-content/uploads/WALC-Institute_Kihei-High-School-Pedestrian-Route-Report_Draft-June-2014_High-Resolution_Packaged_sm.pdf).

Waipu'ilani Gulch provides

the natural topography for an underpass. . . . Maui Research and Technology Park shared that they have concept plans to create a trail that would connect their campus to the future high school campus over the Waipuilani Gulch, making this gulch the ideal place to start. The underpass connection to the school would be a pedestrian and bicycle path, creating another safe route to school for future high school students and Kihei residents. The underpass would also help reconnect the community to the cultural, spiritual, communal and physical importance of paths and walking. Over time, it would connect to the greenway path that will be on the North-South Collector Road, providing easy and safe connections between homes, schools, businesses, shopping and other destinations.

Safe Routes at p. 23.

At its August 24, 2021 meeting, the Maui County Council passed Resolution 21-130, recognizing August 2021 as Pedestrian Safety Month. The resolution acknowledges that pedestrian safety is the primary component of County of Maui's Vision Zero Maui Action Plan ("Action Plan"), an initiative led by Maui Metropolitan Planning Organization to end fatalities and serious injuries caused by traffic crashes on Maui by 2040, and it urges the County Administration to continue to implement the Action Plan as a guide to transportation program improvements that promote safety on Maui roads. <https://mauimpo.org/document/vision-zero-maui-action-plan#overlay-context=visionzeromaui> A goal of the Action Plan is to "build safe streets for everyone."

Building safe streets on Maui includes ensuring that streets are appropriately designed for the surrounding land uses and activities and making it easier, more convenient, and more attractive for people to walk, roll, bike, and take the bus to work, school, shops and other destinations.

Action Plan, p. 44

Another goal of the Vision Plan is "institutionalize Vision Zero." The goal requires "agencies, organizations, and jurisdictions across Maui to collaborate and build a broad collation of support for Vision Zero so that its principles can be embedded in planning, design, prioritization, funding, and implementation decisions." An action set forth to realize that goal is to "integrate Vision Zero Maui goals and actions into relevant policies and planning documents at the community, county, and state levels." Action Plan, p. 46.

Please help us to implement the Vision Plan by allowing for the construction of the Waipu'ilani underpass. The South Maui community has been advocating for this underpass for over a decade. The underpass will protect the students and others by separating them from the high-speed traffic, possibly preventing unnecessary fatalities, and it will also serve to reduce traffic on the highway.

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Sincerely,

*Kelly T. King*

KELLY TAKAYA KING