

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

JADE T. BUTAY  
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors  
ROSS M. HIGASHI  
EDUARDO P. MANGLALLAN  
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN

IN REPLY REFER TO:

GOV 82139  
HWY-M 2.443-22

September 23, 2022

VIA EMAIL: [michelewhite@twc.com](mailto:michelewhite@twc.com)

Mrs. Michele White  
26 Mahalo Nui Place  
Kihei, Hawaii 96753



Dear Mrs. White:

Subject: Piilani Highway Roundabout

Thank you for your correspondence dated September 2, 2022, regarding the Piilani Highway roundabout.

The at-grade roundabout crossing with slower vehicle speeds provides a safe crossing for pedestrians and bicyclists. A grade separated crossing is also a safe crossing, if used. National studies have shown that close to ninety five (95) percent of users of a system will not use a grade separated crossing when it takes them more than 1.5 times longer to cross than at-grade. It has also been shown that, when users choose to run across a roadway where drivers expect them to use an overpass or underpass, it increases the potential for a person to be hit. We are ensuring that we develop facilities for all users, not just drivers, to use safely at-grade. National trends are moving back towards safe, at-grade crossings that everyone can use safely and efficiently, and roundabouts are one of the solutions that are being utilized.

We are providing a safe crossing to allow the school to open for the first phase while the Hawaii Department of Education (HIDOE) studies the need for a grade separated crossing for future phases of the school. As stated above, the roundabout is a solution that will keep all users safe for all phases of the school. However, the HIDOE will continue to study the need for a grade separated crossing.

Should you have any questions, please contact Robin Shishido, District Engineer, Highways Division, Maui District at (808) 873-3535 or by email at [robin.k.shishido@hawaii.gov](mailto:robin.k.shishido@hawaii.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Sniffen".

EDWIN H. SNIFFEN  
Deputy Director, Highways Division