

From: [Dino Goossens-Larsen](#)
To: [DBEDT LUC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opening of Kūlanihāko'i high school
Date: Thursday, February 2, 2023 8:44:17 PM



To whom it may concern:

I am Dino Goossens-Larsen, a resident of Kihei. I have been elated with the progress of construction of the new public high school here; as my nieces, whom I help take care of, grow up, I am looking forward to seeing them be able to attend a public school here in the community they are growing up in. In addition, the school is providing for more diversified job opportunities for friends and family.

It is enraging to hear that the decision-making between DOE and DOT has resulted in them not properly considering the carefully formulated needs from the community, including the County and specifically the LUC, pertaining to ensuring the safety of the new high school's students and workers. It appears that there finally is recognition by the DOE that a highway overpass is needed to ensure the safety of students when the school is at full capacity. I am glad everyone aligns on that being the #1 goal: students' safety.

With that in mind, based on the information provided by the DOE and the new Kūlanihāko'i High School leadership, it appears that there are temporary solutions available for the students as the school readies itself to open at the new site. Hoping for speedy construction of the new overpass, the solution to transport students in school owned buses to the new site appears like a very pragmatic and sufficient solution with the number #1 goal in mind: student safety.

For that reason, I wanted to write in support of providing the school with a certificate of occupancy and allow the new high school buildings to be used as planned. I hope the LUC will request that the bus plan gets reevaluated every year as capacity increases with new classes of students being admitted to the school, ensuring that an incentive remains to actually complete the overpass working up to the school functioning at full capacity.

I would as a local taxpayer be quite disappointed if the LUC decides against opening the school, given the community funds sunk into the site, and the ongoing cost of keeping the buildings secure and available until the site is opened. I hope we don't embarrass ourselves here in the county of Maui with large public infrastructure projects that are not being opened due to red tape, in spite of pragmatic solutions being available for the #1 concern from the funding community, which again, is student safety.

I appreciate you considering.
All the best

Dino Goossens-Larsen
Kihei