

From: [Jennifer Stephens](#)
To: [DBEDT LUC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for Meeting February 9, 2023, RE: Kūlanihākoʻi High School
Date: Monday, February 6, 2023 11:01:52 AM
Attachments: [Letter to LUC for Kūlanihākoʻi High School.pdf](#)



Dear LUC Members,

My name is Jennifer Stephens and I am a lifelong Kihei resident of 48 years. I have been aware of the efforts to build the "Kihei High School" for what feels like 20+ years now. I have watched all my nieces and nephews grow up with excitement, only to be disappointed and unable to attend due to building delays, red tape and what seems to be poor planning from the DOT and DOE.

I agree that the students safety should be of the utmost priority; with that said, I also truly believe that there should be absolutely NO pedestrian crossing at any time on a multi-lane roundabout. I understand that the DOT has been approved to build an overpass, but in the meantime, there have been discussed solutions of having students bussed and/or shuttled in to the campus. This sounds like a very reasonable plan, assuring the safety of the students and allowing them to take full advantage of a school that is built, ready for use and long overdue. We should not allow our students and faculty to continue to suffer because of poor decisions made on this project.

As a taxpayer, I believe after already spending so much on construction up to this point, it would be a great shame to waste this opportunity and have additional money go to upkeep, security and maintenance of vacant buildings that could be occupied. The only ones suffering are the students and staff themselves. It seems that reasonable and safe solutions can and have been suggested while the DOT builds the new overpass.

As a lifelong Kihei resident and having dealt with the amount of traffic increasing over the years that goes along both S. Kihei Road and Piilani Highway, I have seen the negative effects from the Kihei Charter School crossing at Piilani and Lipoa, putting pedestrians across this highway is not only a huge safety concern, but also not feasible to the overcrowded infrastructure and road system currently in place.

For these reasons above I am writing in my support of granting a Certificate of Occupancy to the new Kūlanihākoʻi High School with the understanding that temporary busing solutions can and have been made until a permanent overpass is constructed, giving Kihei students this long overdue opportunity to use a beautiful campus that is built and waiting for them. Approving this temporary, non-pedestrian solution ensures the safety of students while allowing them to take full advantage of the completed facility.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mahalo,
Jennifer Stephens
Kihei Resident since 1975

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Stephens", with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Jennifer Stephens
Kihei Resident since 1975