

**From:** [Lauren Stitt](#)  
**To:** [DBEDT LUC](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony for Meeting February 9, 2023, RE: Kūlanihākoʻi High School  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 7, 2023 3:51:06 PM



Aloha Chair Giovanni and Members of the Commission,

I am a Kihei community member and a teacher at Kūlanihākoʻi High School. I appreciate you taking the time to reconsider the issue of the improvement Condition imposed by your Commission in 2013.

Although it is disappointing that the grade-separated passing agreements have not yet been completed, it is even more disheartening for those of us who are dedicated to the operation and opening of the new Kūlanihākoʻi High School campus. It is unfortunate that controversy regarding policy is preventing our students from experiencing their freshman year on their new campus and building a legacy as the inaugural class for our school. While a grade-separated pedestrian crossing will eventually be built, it seems poor stewardship to allow taxpayer dollars to be used to pay utilities on empty buildings, when our current and incoming students are eager to use them.

The current students of Kūlanihākoʻi High School have patiently waited to make the highly anticipated move to the new campus. Through a variety of student surveys and focus groups, it has become apparent that the temporary location at Lokelani Intermediate School has had an overwhelmingly negative impact on their perceptions of the school environment. In a time when we are focused on attending to the social-emotional well-being of our students, it is heartbreaking to hear them report that school location has so significantly influenced their overall school experience.

As has likely been shared in other testimony, our students have pledged not to cross the highway on foot but to use the transportation provided by the school and parents. While much of the decision-making and planning for the school site and grade-separated crossing has been made in conjunction with those who are not directly associated with Kūlanihākoʻi High School, I humbly ask that you consider the efforts made by those who are immediately involved with the school and community. We share the same goal of ensuring student safety and will be unrelenting in our obligation to provide our students safety in all aspects of the school environment.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Lauren Lott  
Curriculum Coordinator  
Kūlanihākoʻi High School