

From: [Lisa Morrison](#)
To: [DBEDT LUC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for Meeting February 9, 2023, RE: Kūlanihākoʻi High School
Date: Tuesday, February 7, 2023 8:30:32 AM



Aloha Chair Giovanni and Members of the Commission,

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

I understand that the Department of Education failed to construct a grade-separated pedestrian crossing in a timely manner, and that it continues to be in question pending passage in the legislature of the bill for the capital improvement project. While it is disappointing that this has not yet come to pass, it is even more disappointing to those of us who operate the school at its temporary location on Lokelani Intermediate School's campus that we are not allowed to use our campus buildings currently available, yet empty. We know that eventually a grade-separated pedestrian crossing will be built, but in the meantime it's unconscionable that taxpayer dollars are being used to pay utilities on empty buildings, when current students are eager to use them.

Much of the public seems unaware that our school is already operating, that our students understand the importance of safety, and that our students have pledged not to cross the highway on foot but to use the transportation provided by the school and parents. You have received plenty of testimony from adults who believe they know what our students will do and how, but I implore you to listen to the students themselves and the adults who work closely with them.

As the Student Activities Coordinator for Kūlanihākoʻi High School, I have had to put many activities on hold for this year's freshmen class due to lack of space. No dances, rallies, banquets, very few clubs and no sports are available for the lack of access to our new campus. The students ask all the time when the adults are going to let them use their school. They have identified their transportation plans for bus and car. Each year until there is a grade-separated pedestrian crossing, I am planning safety orientations with incoming freshmen to ensure they take the pledge not to cross on foot and that each family has a transportation plan in place.

Please consider those most affected by your decision and amend the 2013 Condition to allow us to safely use our campus while the quest for a grade-separated crossing continues.

Mahalo,
Lisa Morrison

Student Activities Coordinator
Kūlanihākoʻi High School