

**From:** [Hillary Watt](#)  
**To:** [DBEDT LUC](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony for Meeting, February 9, 2023, RE: Kūlanihākoʻi High School.  
**Date:** Thursday, February 9, 2023 6:28:11 AM

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Aloha,

My name is Hillary Watt and my son currently attends Kulanihako'i High School. We had a choice between sending our son to Maui High or having him go to a brand new school. We knew there would be sacrifices (such as no sports teams this first year), but he was willing to step into the unknown for the opportunity to build something new.

His excitement grew even more after his visit to the campus. He couldn't stop talking about how beautiful the facilities were, how clean and environmentally friendly, how unique the building designs were. He day dreams about sitting in the library's reading nook.

We live off of Kulanihako'i Street and we feel so close yet so far away. That one visit is the only time he has spent at the high school he signed up for. Instead, he is still on a middle school campus- which may be stunting the maturity of his freshman class.

I know that safety is everyone's number one concern. However, whether there is an overpass/underpass, or just the roundabout, isn't even a matter of concern. The school has purchased a shuttle bus with which it can safely bring students on to the campus everyday. As a freshman, my son is developing his sense of self and belonging, his sense of place in the community, but he's not in the appropriate physical space to be able to explore these things further. This really should be an easy decision. With the use of the shuttle bus, there is no longer a safety concern. By allowing the students access to their facilities, you are opening up a world of opportunity and excitement.

Thank you for your consideration,

Hillary Watt

Parent of Kulanihako'i student