

Councilwoman Ann Kobayashi
Chair, Budget Committee
Honolulu City Council

To The Honorable Ann Kobayashi, Chair of the Honolulu City Council Budget Committee, and Committee Members:

I am writing on behalf of the Kalihi Valley Neighborhood Board and residents of Kalihi Valley in support of the amendment to Bill 14, CD 1, appropriating funds to the Kalihi Street "S" Curve.

The "S" Curve has been an agenda item as a risk to public safety for the past twenty years. It is a blind curve in upper Kalihi Valley that is so difficult to navigate that city buses must frequently cross the centerline into oncoming traffic to make the turn. There are no sidewalks in this area, so elderly pedestrians, who make up the majority of residents in the upper valley, must either walk on the road facing oncoming traffic or on to an unpaved area of private property to walk around. To date, there have been multiple documented, and undocumented vehicular accidents over the years due to vegetation overgrowth, runoff from neighboring areas, and difficulty navigating the turn at night.

Over the past decades, the Kalihi Valley Neighborhood Board has heard testimony and initiated studies with various organizations and government agencies in regards to the area that provide ample support for its straightening as a way to limit liability, and increase overall pedestrian, vehicular, and resident safety.

I strongly urge you to pass this amendment.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me via the Honolulu Neighborhood Commission Office.

Respectfully,

Christopher J. Wong
Chairman
Kalihi Valley Neighborhood Board

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