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Testimony of Tom Dinell on Bill 8
City and County of Honolulu Council
February 17, 2016

I submit this testimony in opposition to Bill 8. I wish I could appear in person, but circumstances do not permit me to do so at this time.

Bill 8 effectively creates a bureaucratic nightmare for implementing Complete Streets, a program we just put in place with the adoption of Ordinance 12-15 four years ago. That Ordinance wisely requires the preparation and completion of a checklist by the directors of DDC, DFM, DPP, and DTS and their staffs "...when initiating, planning, designing, revising, implementing and/or reviewing any transportation facility or project".

Bill 8 says that is not good enough. Each and every checklist, and there must be hundred of them, would have to be approved. After possible revision, by the Council before funds could be expended on any project. Skipping the anomaly of how one prepares a checklist for a project that has not yet been planned because funding had not yet been approved, why would one want to have each repaving project, for example, reviewed and revised by Council members when it had already undergone a rigorous administrative review process including in many cases community participation.

Project-by-project Council reviews invite long delays, unwieldy modifications, uncoordinated changes, endless revisions, long delays, log-rolling of the worse sort, and unsystematic undermining of the guiding objective of the entire Complete Streets endeavor, namely, making our street safely available for all users and not just automobile drivers.

If the objective is to kill Complete Streets in Honolulu, then Bill 8 is the perfect poison pill.

I strongly urge the members of the Council to reject Bill 8 on second reading so that it will no longer pose a threat to the implementation of Complete Streets in Honolulu.