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**Testimony COMMENTING on Bill 8 (2016)
RELATING TO COMPLETE STREETS**

CITY COUNCIL, CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
March 3, 2016 – 1:00P.M.

1 **Department Testimony:** The Department respectfully offers comments on Bill 8 (2016) which
2 would require the submission of the complete streets checklist, design standards, guidelines, and
3 manuals to the Council for review and approval. The Department commends the City and
4 County’s implementation of complete streets, the passage of the complete streets ordinance in
5 2012, and the creation and implementation of the complete streets checklist. We are concerned
6 that Bill 8 (2016) would unnecessarily burden the implementation of complete streets, bicycle,
7 and pedestrian projects.

8 The Department has been supporting complete streets through objectives and strategies
9 outlined in both the Physical Activity and Nutrition Plan (2013-2020) and the Hawaii Injury
10 Prevention Plan (2012-2016). The Department values continued efforts to implement complete
11 streets guidelines and principles into our transportation projects as it helps Hawaii achieve goals
12 for increasing physical activity, while at the same time, improving the safety of our
13 transportation network for all ages and abilities.

14 The development of built environments that encourages walking and bicycling is a
15 strategic way to make physical activity an integral and routine part of life according to the
16 Institute of Medicine (IOM) 2012 report, “Accelerating Progress in Obesity Prevention: Solving
17 the Weight of the Nation.” Currently over 58% of Hawaii adults and 28% of youth are
18 overweight or obese and less than one fourth of adults and high school students meet the national
19 physical activity recommendations. Sedentary lifestyles, poor nutrition, and tobacco use are the
20 leading causes of preventable disease and premature death. Conservatively, medical expenditure
21 in Hawaii for obesity is over \$470 million, and for diabetes \$770 million. The solutions to
22 improving our current health crisis includes improving the design of our communities.

1 The City Council was ahead of the IOM's recommendations by passing the City's
2 complete streets ordinance in 2012 to build streets that support all modes of transportation
3 including walking and bicycling. We appreciate the leadership of the City and the efforts
4 underway to make Oahu a more health promoting place to live and visit.

5 Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.