

Bill 61
Additional Testimony



August 15, 2018

RE: SUPPORT BILL 61 (2018) RELATING TO CROSSWALKS

Dear Chair Martin, Vice-Chair Pine and Distinguished Members of the Council,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. Blue Zones Project was brought to Hawaii by HMSA to help increase the overall well-being of our communities and to make Hawaii a healthier, happier place to live, work and play. To accomplish that goal, we address ways that we can lower obesity rates, tobacco use, and chronic diseases.

One of the ways to positively affect well-being is to increase the opportunities for people to move naturally. To ensure natural movement, safety for pedestrians and other road users needs to be a priority.

As of July 10, 2018, there have been 34 fatalities on Oahu's roads involving a mix of road users: cyclists, pedestrians, and motorists. There is an urgent need to consider a variety of approaches to address the high number of deaths on our roadways. Bill 61 (2018) is one approach to create more consistent safety for all road users.

Although we do not typically support the removal of crosswalks, we recognize it can be necessary. We do strongly support the public outreach and education component required by this measure. Once a crosswalk has been identified for removal, a formal process for public engagement is involved. These public conversations support our vision of zero road deaths.

Blue Zones Project—Hawaii hopes to work with the Council and the Department along with other organizations to increase public awareness, engage public dialogue, and continue the work to achieve safe roads for all users. We want to see all our communities become safer places for work and play.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in support of Bill 61 (2018) we look forward to further discussions regarding this bill.

Sincerely,

Peggy Mierzwa

Peggy Mierzwa
Statewide Policy Lead—Hawaii
Blue Zones Project

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