

Bill 61
Early Testimony



Smart Growth America
Improving lives by improving communities



**National Complete
Streets Coalition**

Honorable Chair Ernest Martin and Members of the Honolulu City Council,

My name is Emiko Atherton, and I am the Director of the National Complete Streets Coalition, a program of Smart Growth America. The National Complete Streets Coalition, which launched the Complete Streets movement in 2004, promotes the development and implementation of Complete Streets policies and professional practices that integrate people and place in the planning, design, construction, operation, and maintenance of transportation networks. To date, over 1,325 agencies at the local, regional, and state levels have adopted Complete Streets policies, totaling more than 1,400 policies nationwide. I appreciate the opportunity to deliver this written testimony in support of bill 61 and resolution 18-170.

Bill 61 and resolution 18-170 are strong, logical additions to the City of Honolulu's Complete Streets work. They affirm that effective public infrastructure changes require proper engagement and prioritization of the citizens who use it.

We at the National Complete Streets Coalition understand that retrofitting the typical, automobile-centric road system with Complete Streets concepts is a challenging, iterative task. But it is the best approach to the pressing need for safer, healthier communities designed to prioritize the safety and needs of all people, not just cars.

Communities all over the country are going through similar processes and that is why the National Complete Streets Coalition exists. We know that streets are a vital part of livable, attractive communities. We believe that everyone, regardless of age, ability, income, race, or ethnicity, ought to have safe, comfortable, and convenient access to community destinations and public places—whether walking, driving, bicycling, or taking public transportation.

We also know that it is easy to continue with the sprawling, car centric design that the US has employed for decades. However, great communities don't make easy choices, they make great design decisions that put their values front and center at every step of the process. Bill 61 and resolution 18-170 will ensure that the voices, vision, and safety of this community come before convenience or the desire to move cars.

In closing, I encourage you to reach to the National Complete Streets Coalition for best practices on designing and implementing Complete Streets. . We score Complete Streets policies from all over the country, promoting best practices and helping municipalities to improve vitality and safety. This year, we will be publish Dangerous By Design, a bi-annual report that dives into the most dangerous metro areas for people walking. We are paying close attention to the design and process choices of leaders like you because they have a direct effect on safety of people who have to walk these streets everyday to go to school, the grocery store, or work.

Your decision on this Bill and Resolution will directly affect the safety and vitality of your community. I encourage your support of this important legislation.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Emiko Atherton".

Emiko Atherton
Director, National Complete Streets Coalition