

TESTIMONY RE: BILL NO. 16 (2009), CD1
RELATING TO THE EXECUTIVE CAPITAL BUDGET AND
PROGRAM FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2009 TO JUNE 30, 2010

REGULAR MEETING/PUBLIC HEARING
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER
6TH SESSION
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2009
2 P.M.

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Good afternoon Chair Apo and members of the Council:

My name is David Henkin, and I currently serve as Chair of the Kahalu'u Neighborhood Board No. 29. I appreciate the opportunity to offer this testimony regarding Bill 16 (2009), CD 1.

On behalf of the Kahalu'u Neighborhood Board, I strongly urge the Council to include in the FY2010 executive capital budget two projects that are longstanding community priorities: (1) a Kahalu'u Pedestrian and Bicycle Network Circulation Study (\$140,000 plan + \$10,000 design);¹ and (2) landscaping and sidewalk improvements to Waihe'e Road (\$30,000 plan + \$30,000 design).² During the previous budgeting process, the Board had requested CIP funding for these two projects for the current fiscal year, but, unfortunately, they were not included in the final budget. At its November 12, 2008 meeting, the Board once again identified these projects as the highest priorities for the coming year's CIP budget.

There is strong community support for both projects, which were listed as priorities in the Kahalu'u Community Master Plan, a collaborative effort involving the City and County of Honolulu that received substantial input and support from the community. The Master Plan identifies these two projects as important to increasing transportation safety and improving circulation within the Kahalu'u community.

It is particularly important to move forward with these two projects now that the Kahalu'u Regional Park has been completed. In our rural community, there are few safe routes for keiki to get to the park on foot or bicycle, and, thus, most park users have to travel by car. Improving pedestrian and bicycle circulation – a goal of both projects – is key to reducing the traffic that plagues our community, as well as to promoting healthier lifestyles for our keiki.

Mahalo for the opportunity to offer this testimony.

¹ This project involves preparation of a planning feasibility study and preliminary design for a pedestrian greenway network through Kahalu'u, including: (1) a connection between Waihe'e Road and Wailehua Road along either Ahilama Road or through Waihe'e Marsh; and (2) along Waihe'e Stream and Ka'alaea Stream.

² These improvements would distinguish Waihe'e Road as the primary route along Kahalu'u's civic core and develop a safe pedestrian and bicycle environment.