



May 14, 2018

To: Chair Trevor Ozawa  
Vice Chair Ann Kobayashi  
Budget Committee members

Re: **Comments for Bill 15 (2018)**

Hrg: May 15, 2018

The Hawaii Public Health Association is a group of over 600 community members, public health professionals and organizations statewide dedicated to improving public health. HPHA also serves as a voice for public health professionals and as a repository for information about public health in the Pacific.

**HPHA strongly believes in the benefit of expanding bicycle infrastructure and highly encourage the Honolulu City Council to fund the protected bicycle lane on Pensacola Avenue.**

Improved bicycle infrastructure has benefits for both individual bicyclists and the community. For bicyclists, protected bike lanes can substantially reduce risk for collisions and fatalities. The Hawaii Department of Health data shows that 28 serious bicycle injuries occurred over the past 5 years on the Piikoi/Pensacola couplet, which is unacceptable. A 2016 report in the *American Journal of Public Health* titled "Safer cycling through improved bicycle infrastructure," found that improved infrastructure greatly reduced the rate of severe injuries and fatalities while increasing bike ridership. With Hawaii's high obesity and low physical activity rates, allowing more people to bike as a form of transit can allow our community to be healthier and happier. In addition, making our streets safer for bikers will increase ridership and lower automobile congestion. Less cars on our streets also has environmental benefits; a study by the Worldwatch Institute found that swapping a car for a bike on short commutes of four miles to work and back would generate 2,000 less pounds of carbon every year. For pedestrians, protected bike lanes serve as a traffic calming feature and can increase safety for all community members.

Again, we ask you to take this important step for the benefit of the community and restore funds to build a protected bike lane on Pensacola Avenue.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Holly Kessler'.

Holly Kessler  
Executive Director