

**Safe Routes to Schools Advisory Committee**

November 26, 2024

10:00-11:00 AM

Remotely via Microsoft Teams

**Meeting Minutes**

**I. Call to Order, Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at 10:09 am by Chair Kathleen Rooney, who conducted a roll call of committee members and confirmed a quorum was present.

Member requirement	Appointment detail(s)	Name	Present?
One member to be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives	House of Representatives appointee, chair for 2024-2025	Kathleen Rooney	Y
One member to be appointed by the president of the senate	Senate appointee	Pending	
The department of transportation's safe routes to school program coordinator		Tara Lucas	Y
The deputy director of the department of transportation's highways division		Bryan Kimura, official designee	Y
One member representing the physical activity and nutrition section of the department of health's chronic disease prevention and health promotion division		Justin Menina, official designee	Y
The superintendent of education		Megan Omura, official designee	Y
The co-chair of the Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation commission	Chairperson, Department of Land and Natural Resources	Luke Sarvis official designee	Y
The co-chair of the Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation commission	Director, Office of Planning and Sustainable Development	Leah Laramee, official designee	Y
One member representing the Hawaii state energy office		Nicole Cernohorsky official designee	Y
One member representing the Hawaii state council on developmental disabilities		Sierra Whiteside	Y
One member representing each county agency with jurisdiction over transportation	City and County of Honolulu	Yamato Sasaki	Y
	County of Hawaii	Jesse Domian	Y
	County of Kauai	Michael Moule	N
	County of Maui	Kurt Watanabe	N
One member representing an organization with a focus on bicycling	Appointed by the governor, pursuant to section 26-34, for a three-year term	Thomas Noyes	Y

One member representing an organization with a focus on senior citizens and their families	Appointed by the governor, pursuant to section 26-34, for a three-year term	James Burke	Y
One member representing an organization that understands the ways families with young children navigate through the State	Appointed by the governor, pursuant to section 26-34, for a three-year term	Pending	
One member representing an organization with a focus on public health and mobility	Appointed by the governor, pursuant to section 26-34, for a three-year term	Jessica Thompson	Y
One member representing an organization with a focus on transportation equity and mobility	Appointed by the governor, pursuant to section 26-34, for a three-year term	Jeanne Torres	N
The chair of representatives standing committee with primary jurisdiction over transportation	Senate, serving as non-voting, ex-officio member	Senator Chris Lee	N
The chair of the senate standing committee with primary jurisdiction over transportation	House of Representatives, serving as non-voting, ex-officio member	Representative Chris Todd	N

## II. Presentation by Hawaii Department of Education

Megan Omura from the Hawaii Department of Education provided an update on student transportation initiatives, including:

- Efforts to find more CDL drivers to restore suspended bus routes on Oahu, many of which have been restored.
- The use of tour buses as a temporary measure to supplement transportation, and the need to raise awareness for drivers to stop for these buses
- Plans to expand the Express program, which provides free county bus transportation for qualifying students, to include middle and high school students.
- There was discussion and Q&A between the committee members and Megan regarding the transportation challenges, safety concerns, and potential solutions like the carpool pilot program being implemented.

## III. Discussion and Appropriate Action on Approach to Meeting Law's Mandate

The committee reviewed the draft report to the legislature that was provided two weeks prior. The report included a summary of the committee's work, an overview of the current state of

student transportation in Hawaii, and a list of potential projects and initiatives to address identified needs and gaps. The committee discussed the public comment period that is open until the end of the month, during which time additional feedback and project proposals can be submitted for inclusion. Laramie made a motion to approve the draft report with the understanding that minor amendments may be made based on the public comments received. The motion was seconded by Burke and approved by the committee.

### **III. Open Forum**

During the open forum, several members of the public provided comments and insights related to the Safe Routes to School efforts.

- A member of the public raised concerns about children waiting for buses in secluded areas, as well as an incident of a disabled student being assaulted on a school bus in Logan V. R
- The committee acknowledged the concerns and Domian and Sasaki offered to follow up with the individual after the meeting to gather more details and see how the committee could potentially assist.

### **IV. Announcements**

The committee also discussed upcoming presentations and speakers, including the National Center for Safe Roads and Square Rocks the Schools, and the potential for the county of Maui and the Safe Routes Partnership to present in future meetings.

### **V. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:49am.