

Safe Routes to Schools Advisory Committee

January 28th, 2025

10:00-11:00 AM

Remotely via Microsoft Teams

Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order, Roll Call

Chair Kathleen Rooney called the meeting to order at 10:04 am. She 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		Larry Dill, 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		Heidi Hansen-Smith	Y
The superintendent of education		Audrey Hidano, official designee	
The co-chair of the Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation commission	Chairperson, Department of Land and Natural Resources	Russell Tsuji or Luke Sarvis official designee	
The co-chair of the Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation commission	Director, Office of Planning and Sustainable Development	Leah Laramée, official designee	
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	
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	Y
	County of Maui	Kurt Watanabe	Y
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

Safe Routes to Schools Advisory Committee – Meeting Minutes

January 28, 2025

Page 2 of 4

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	
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	
The chair of representatives standing committee with primary jurisdiction over transportation	Senate, serving as non-voting, ex-officio member	Senator Chris Lee	
The chair of the senate standing committee with primary jurisdiction over transportation	House of Representatives, serving as non-voting, ex-officio member	Dorene Eddy for Representative Darius Kila	Y

Identified Guests – Bev Brody (Get Fit Kauai), Marisa Jones (Safe Routes Partnership), Heide Weber, Kevin Richardson (Deputy Attorney General upon request), and Patty Hatzistavrakis (Hawaii Public Health Institute), Ariana Tenaglia, Whitney Watts, Summer Begnaud, Amy Ford-Wagner.

II. Approval of the Minutes

The Committee approved past meeting minutes unanimously for the following dates: September 24, 2024, October 15, 2024, October 29, 2024, and November 26, 2024. Motions and seconds provided by various members.

III. Presentation by Safe Routes Partnership

Marisa Jones from Safe Routes Partnership presented the 2024 Making Strides State Report Card, which evaluated Hawaii's support for walking and biking, scoring 132 out of 200 points. She highlighted the need for specific goals to increase walking and biking mode share and proposed the development of a statewide Safe Routes to School plan. The discussion also included mini grants awarded to communities in Southern California, aimed at enhancing access

to funding for infrastructure and community engagement projects. Some key recommendations included:

- Developing an active transportation mode share goal for Hawaii
- Providing a local match for communities with state funds.
- Offering mini-grants/planning grants to develop the SRTS project pipeline with communities.
- Addressing minimum site requirements for schools.

Participants shared insights on successful funding applications in Louisiana and Arizona, and discussed strategies for improving relationships with schools in Hawaii.

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

Chair Rooney provided some administrative information about meeting invites both for the series and monthly. She also provided updates on the final report available on the Hawaii Department of Transportation's website. Some feedback included the inclusion of state projects, which will affect the desired project recommendations and timeline. The Committee was encouraged to recommend future spending with a deadline for obligating funds set for June 30, 2024. Given the report to legislature was completed, the Committee also confirmed the next steps going forward:

- Develop a comprehensive statewide SRTS plan and program
- Invest in a strong network of SRTS staff
- Recommend projects to HDOT for funding
 - Fund existing county-based SRTS plans, programs, and projects
 - Launch a process to solicit and evaluate new project proposals (revised to match report to legislature)
 - Evaluate current projects (state and county) to move some forward

See final report to legislature for additional detail. Specifically, with the SRTS plan, the Committee has specific questions about moving forward under a current open-ended contract with Hawaii DOT and the best mechanisms to do so; they will follow up with the Deputy Attorney General for further information.

III. Open Forum

A member of the public wanted to make sure the local neighborhood boards were consulted about future projects.

IV. Announcements

None

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:04 am.

