

Safe Routes to Schools Advisory Committee

June 26th, 2025

10:00-11:00 AM

Remotely via Microsoft Teams

Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order, Roll Call

Leah Laramée, interim chair, called the meeting to order at 10:02 am. She conducted a roll call of committee members.

Member requirement	Appointment detail(s)	Name	Present?
One member to be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives	House of Representatives appointee	Kathleen Rooney	N
One member to be appointed by the president of the senate	Senate appointee, chair for 2024-2025	Abbey Seitz	Y
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		Robin Shishido	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	N
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 Laramée, official designee	X
One member representing the Hawaii state energy office		Shana Merrifield for Chris Yunker, official designee	Y
One member representing the Hawaii state council on developmental disabilities		Sierra Whiteside	N
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	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	N
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 Darius Kila	N

Identified Guests – Kevin Richardson (Deputy Attorney General upon request); Patti Hatzistavakis (Hawaii Public Health Institute); Justin Menina (Hawaii Department of Health); Bev Brody (Get Fit Kauai); Chelsea Dau (Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization); Paul Strauss; and Danielle Tosaka;

II. Approval of the Minutes

The approval of the May minutes was inadvertently tabled.

III. Discussion and appropriate action on approach to meeting law’s mandate

Leah Laramee as acting chair provided a short legislative session update, confirming receipt of SR 98 SD1 received on May 29, 2025 and HB 1231/SB 1664, which provides additional SRTS funding.

Tara Lucas provided an update on the RFQ process for the SRTS plan, indicating the scope was final and currently going through their approvals process.

Several members provided updates regarding the different SRTS staff positions. HDOT is currently reviewing the potential description for their position. Hawaii DOE and Maui are both to be determined. The C&C of Honolulu's coordinator position is in the process of re-contracting. Kauai's new coordinator begins July 1st, 2025. Hawaii County is preparing a funding request for the Committee to continue funding past FY 2025-2026.

The Committee discussed also having Justin Tyndall from the University of Hawaii present on his large vehicle fatality research; and a Department of Health representative to present on a new project assessing the walkability of public libraries.

Several items were discussed in the Open Forum and Announcements that were skimmed over during original discussion. One was the announcement of Abbey Seitz as the Senate appointee, thus starting as the new chair at the July meeting. In addition, members of the permitted interaction group provided an update regarding their work. They noted that the state and the counties had all submitted additional information on their top projects for funding consideration, approximately 20 projects. The group was going to review those in the next week and be prepared to present their recommendations to the Committee at the July meeting. As a result, the Committee also expressed the desire to have a special meeting to then vote on these recommendations on August 5th at 10am.

III. Open Forum

None

IV. Announcements

None

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.