

Safe Routes to Schools Advisory Committee

July 22nd, 2025

10:00-11:00 AM

Remotely via Microsoft Teams

Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order, Roll Call

Chair Abbey Seitz called the meeting to order at 10:02 am and 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,	Kathleen Rooney	Y
One member to be appointed by the president of the senate	Senate appointee, chair for 2025-2026	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		Larry Dill for 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	Ian Hirokawa for 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	N
	County of Hawaii	Jesse Domian	Y
	County of Kauai	Michael Moule	Y
	County of Maui	Kurt Watanabe	N

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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	N
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	Y

Identified Guests – Kevin Richardson (Deputy Attorney General upon request); Patti Hatzistavrakis (Hawaii Public Health Institute); Justin Menina (Hawaii Department of Health); and Bev Brody (Get Fit Kauai)

II. Approval of the Minutes

The Committee approved the May and June meeting minutes unanimously; motions and seconds provided by various members.

III. Appointment of a vice-chair

Kathleen Rooney appointed as Vice Chair for 2025-2026 term

IV. Discussion and update on approach to meeting law's mandate including:

Chair Seitz provided a legislative update. HB 1231 was enacted by Act 212 (2025), which added a \$5 surcharge to motor vehicles registrations, which would specifically go into the Safe Routes to School. The Committee discussed SR98 SD1, which had been received officially from the clerk. The resolution urges the DOE to collaborate with our committee, and also urges the county of Hawaii to inventory bus stops that children use to travel to school, and also develop strategies To improve safety at those identified stops It had been shared with Hawaii Department of Education committee members and would be shared

with the County of Hawaii staff. Additional funding measures SB 1009 and SB 1195 were discussed as well.

The Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) presented funding recommendations based on the [Funding Recommendations, July 2025](#). They began meeting on April 25, 2025 and spent two months working through their scope, developing clarifying questions, reaching out to project sponsors for additional information, and evaluating the projects. Their recommendations include a three-phase funding plan totaling approximately \$16.5 million. Phase 1 was for \$6M, phase 2 for \$6M, and then phase 3 was for \$3.5M. Projects were ranked based on county and DOT priorities from the original pipeline list. Some projects split into phases to accommodate funding. Funding requests varied - some projects requested 100% funding, others partial. The PIG has remaining questions regarding the timing of the fund dispersal, the process for releasing the funds and the potential for additional projects requests. Action will be taken at the August 5th special meeting.

V. Open Forum

None

VI. Announcements

- Upcoming speakers include Trina Becker from University of Hawaii.
- Hawaii County hiring Mass Transit Administrator.
- Kauai to provide an updated letter for their new SRTS coordinator as the Committee designee.

VII. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 10:57 AM