

Safe Routes to Schools Advisory Committee

September 23rd, 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 2:01 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, official designee	Y
The superintendent of education		Audrey Hidano, official designee	Y
The co-chair of the Hawai'i climate change mitigation and adaptation commission	Chairperson, Department of Land and Natural Resources	Luke Sarvis, official designee	Y
The co-chair of the Hawai'i climate change mitigation and adaptation commission	Director, Office of Planning and Sustainable Development	Leah Laramée, official designee	Y
One member representing the Hawai'i state energy office		Shana Merrifield for Chris Yunker, official designee	Y
One member representing the Hawai'i 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, official designee	Y
	County of Hawai'i	Jesse Domian, official designee	Y

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	County of Kauai	Keith Hatcher, official designee	Y
	County of Maui	Kurt Watanabe, official designee	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
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	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	N
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 the senate standing committee with primary jurisdiction over transportation	Senate, serving as non-voting, ex-officio member	Senator Chris Lee	N
The chair of representatives 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 – Kevin Richardson and Jose Vega (Attorney General’s Office); Laura Kaakua and Natasha Soriano [Hawai’i Department of Transportation (HDOT)]; Sarah Hipp and Justin Menina (Hawai’i Department of Health); Eduardo Hernandez (Hawai’i Bicycling League); Morgan Fletcher and Minh Vo (International Road Assessment Programme); Doorae Shin; and Danielle Tosaka.

II. Old Business

The Committee approved meeting minutes from the July 22nd and August 5th meetings. The Committee also discussed the County of Hawai’i’s funding request for a Safe Routes to School coordinator. The Committee wanted to confirm that this approval is contingent on federal/other

grant funding not being available. The committee discussed the need for annual progress reports and interim deliverables for this request and previously approved requests. HDOT also supported creating a standardized reporting template. The chair proposed a special meeting to allow for these concerns to be addressed and the County of Hawai'i's funding request to be voted on. The Committee also approved the letter signifying support for HDOT's Energy Security and Waste Reduction Plan.

III. Presentation: STAR Ratings for Schools by Minh Vo, International Road Assessment Program

Minh Vo presented on the International Road Assessment Program (iRAP)'s Star Ratings for School Program. iRAP is a UK-based charity working globally with the vision to create a world free of high-risk roads. They have also assessed over 2 million road sections in 135 countries. The STAR Ratings program helps school communities assess the pedestrian safety and infrastructure condition, specifically focused on children's safety during school journeys. The assessment is a 5-step process that helps establish baseline conditions, test and implement upgrades, and communicate achievements. The program has been used to assess over 2,000 schools in 80 countries worldwide.

There also is a youth engagement application that allows students to complement the objective infrastructure assessment. STARS is unique in that it helps prioritize safety improvements; provides quantitative safety measurements; offers a demonstrator function to test potential interventions; and is supported through free online training. iRAP is also exploring a similar approach for bicycle star ratings and exploring AI detection for road attributes. Min offered further consultation and detailed demonstrations of the tool upon request.

IV. New Business

The Committee was unable to discuss new business in the meeting time allowed and these items were tabled for future meetings.

V. Open Forum: Invitation to interested members of the public to be heard on matters not included on the agenda

None

VI. Announcements

- Likely Special Meeting to be held on October 14, 2025.
- Justin Tyndall with UHERO will be the guest speaker at the October 28, 2025 meeting.
- Ulupono scholarship available for Safe Routes Partnership conference registration
- Honolulu Century Ride is scheduled for September 28, 2025.

VII. Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 3:18PM