

Eric A. Knudsen Trust
P.O. Box 160, Koloa, HI 96756
(808) 332-5682

July 6, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
US Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington DC 20590

**RE: POIPU ROAD SAFETY AND MOBILITY PROJECT - RAISE GRANT
APPLICATION**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

For more than 150 years the Eric A. Knudsen Trust has been stewarding more than 3,000 acres upon which the Island of Kauai depends for its economic vitality. I have the pleasure of leading the Eric A. Knudsen Trust by serving as its Executive Trust Manager and one of the four Trustees on its Board of Trustees. Our lands span from the mountains to the sea and include everything from the core tourism corridor of Poipu Beach, recently recognized once again as the “Best Beach of Hawaii”, to providing the biofuel for Kauai’s renewable energy plant. The Eric A. Knudsen Trust fully supports the County of Kauai’s RAISE application for the Poipu Road Safety and Mobility Project. This project has been a long time in the making and the County has collaborated on the design with property and business owners, including the Eric A. Knudsen Trust, and a broad diversity of local residents from the beginning.

Tourism is Kauai’s largest industry, and Koloa-Poipu is Kauai’s most important visitor destination. During COVID-19, tourism has been brought to a standstill, severely impacting the economy of Kauai and Hawaii. This project will not only provide an improved transportation network for local residents and visitors alike, it will provide a much-needed boost for the island’s most important industry.

While tourism will continue to be a vital industry on Kauai, COVID has made it especially clear that we must diversify our economy and create well-paying jobs so that children who grow up on Kauai can stay here and raise their own families. As such, I am working with an incredibly talented and diverse team to develop a data center on Kauai to support advanced technology – technology to support agriculture, tourism, transportation, and other sectors. We are building a 21st-century economy for Kauai. In addition, I’m working on a private plan to fulfill the County’s vision of shifting visitor travel. Instead of renting a car at the airport for the duration of their stay, visitors can take a shuttle from the airport to their destination, walk and bike to the beach and shops, use shuttles, and on occasion, rent or share an electric car at their resort. Implementation of this model links the data center and the Poipu Road Safety and Mobility Project. The data center provides the technology for the transportation model to be smart and efficient; the Poipu Road Safety and Mobility project provides the transportation infrastructure. All of these projects address equity and environmental sustainability.

Co-Trustees

John Horwitz
(714) 299-4421

Matt Guard
(808) 295-1183

Peter Baldwin
(808) 346-5992

George R. Robinson
(808) 224-0638

By conscientiously stewarding the lands with the singular purpose of improving our community through science, nature and humanity, Kauai continues to be a phenomenal example of the public and private sector working together to improve the safety, economic vitality, and quality of life for all who visit or live on Kauai.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Horwitz", written over a printed name.

John Horwitz
Executive Trust Manager and Co-Trustee
Eric A. Knudsen Trust