

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

July 22, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We write in support of six Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant applications for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 recently submitted by the Hawai‘i Department of Transportation, City & County of Honolulu, and the County of Kaua‘i. These six requests – which will improve safety, environmental sustainability, quality of life, economic competitiveness, State of Good Repair, underserved communities, and demographic equity – consist of the projects detailed below.

- Honopi‘ilani Highway Realignment – Hawai‘i Department of Transportation, Highways Division
- Farrington Highway Realignment – Hawai‘i Department of Transportation, Highways Division
- Hilo Harbor Pier 1 Expansion – Hawai‘i Department of Transportation, Harbors Division
- Ala Wai Bridge Project – City and County of Honolulu
- Wai‘ānae Connected Traffic Signals & Broadband Project – City and County of Honolulu
- Po‘ipū Road Safety and Mobility – County of Kaua‘i

Honopi‘ilani Highway Realignment – Hawai‘i Department of Transportation, Highways Division

The Honoapi‘ilani Highway is a critical roadway in need of improvements due to the damaging impacts of climate change and coastal erosion. The highway is the only available route for residents, tourists, and businesses in West Maui to access the rest of the island, including accessing critical infrastructure in Kahului including the airport, harbor, and hospitals. The RAISE funded project is a part of a longer segment of highway improvements that runs approximately 14 miles from the Pali tunnel to north of Lahaina, which supports approximately 28,000 daily vehicles. Realigning the highway improves safety, reduces closures due to weather and storm surges, improves the quality of life by opening open areas of the old alignment for community access as envisioned in area plans, and ensures access to West Maui businesses, residences, and natural areas.

Farrington Highway Realignment – Hawai‘i Department of Transportation, Highways Division

The Farrington Highway is a critical roadway in need of improvements due to the damaging impacts of climate change and coastal erosion. The highway is the only available route for residents, tourists, and businesses in Leeward O‘ahu. The project is a part of a resiliency plan to address coastal erosion for 0.6 miles which supports approximately 5,000 daily vehicles. Realigning the highway improves safety, reduces closures due to weather and would protect the highway against sea rise, storm surges and coastal erosion. This would improve the quality of life by opening open areas of the old alignment for community access as envisioned in area plans. Finally, the project ensures access to Leeward Coast residences, military installations, and natural areas.

Hilo Harbor Pier 1 Expansion – Hawai‘i Department of Transportation, Harbors Division

The Hilo Harbor Pier 1 Expansion project is needed to expand the cargo operational yard area to mitigate spatial congestion conflicts, since the area is shared by two commercial cargo businesses. In addition, the project would also provide an additional access roadway and entrance to eliminate the conflict between commercial vehicles and passenger vehicles on the public roadway. Due to Hawai‘i’s geographic remoteness, DOT-H’s benefit-cost analysis (BCA) may appear disadvantaged for two reasons. First, construction costs are comparatively higher in Hawai‘i than the continental U.S. Second, projects in Hawai‘i are challenged to produce national benefits, a primary criterion in the BCA, because the islands’ commercial harbors are final-destination ports serving a smaller population. We humbly request that this be taken into consideration when reviewing DOT-H’s BCA for the project.

Ala Wai Bridge Project – City and County of Honolulu

With no existing crossing between McCully Street and Kapahulu Avenue, the Ala Wai Canal acts as a 1.4-mile barrier. Existing canal crossings are unsafe, with minimal pedestrian and bicycle accommodations – if any. This project will create a safe, convenient, sustainable, and affordable transportation connection between the tourism and employment hub of Waikiki and the neighboring communities of McCully and Mō‘ili‘ili.

Wai‘ānae Connected Traffic Signals & Broadband Project – City and County of Honolulu

The Wai‘ānae Connected Traffic Signals and Broadband Project, a partnership between the City and County of Honolulu and the State of Hawai‘i Department of Transportation, will result in the installation of a fiber-optic network designed to support adaptive signal controls and the associated hardware, software, cameras, sensors, and other necessary traffic control equipment. In addition, the new fiber-optic network at the core of this project will also support the delivery of free community Wi-Fi service to communities across West O‘ahu.

Po‘ipū Road Safety and Mobility – County of Kaua‘i

This project will construct continuous bike lanes and improved pedestrian crossings on Po‘ipū Road through Kōloa town, connecting neighborhoods to Kōloa’s school, shops, and services. Within the Po‘ipū resort district, continuous sidewalks and bike lanes will be constructed to better facilitate travel for both visitors as well as employees who live within walking or biking distance. The project includes roundabouts at three major intersections, left turn lanes at other

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intersections, and a landscaped median to calm traffic and improve pedestrian crossings. These improvements will enhance safety for all users, including motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

These projects will create good paying jobs, connect disadvantaged communities, make the state's transportation network more resilient to the impacts of climate change, and make our roads safer for all road users. We sincerely hope you will give their applications your full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,



BRIAN SCHATZ  
United States Senator



MAZIE K. HIRONO  
United States Senator



ED CASE  
Member of Congress



KAIALI'I KAHELE  
Member of Congress