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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1102

June 1, 2020

Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: Poipu Road Safety and Mobility Project BUILD Application

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing to express my support for the County of Kaua'i, Hawaii grant application to the Department of Transportation for \$20,364,300 from the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Program.


Congress appropriated \$1 billion in the FY20 Further Consolidated Appropriations towards surface transportation infrastructure projects that will have a significant local or regional impact. The BUILD Program is a critical tool for local governments to improve transportation safety, expand economic development, and improve quality of life.

This application will allow the County of Kaua'i to completely transform Poipu Road, which connects the town of Koloa to the Poipu Resort area. The County's project will result in a safer street with increased mobility choices. Road investments will ease traffic and reduce congestion while creating continuous sidewalks and bike lanes. Such improvements will enhance access from the South Shore to the town core, making it safer and more accessible for children to get to school, commuters to get to work, and tourists exploring the island.

Moreover, not only does this project border Opportunity Zone 406.04, the road connects the town core with the main resort area, where roughly twenty percent of jobs in the County are located. Upgrading Poipu Road will enrich the value and encourage economic investments in the region.

The economic development potential associated with these developments is critical more than ever considering the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting financial impact on state and local governments. I strongly support this application and encourage you to support the County of Kauai's request for the BUILD Program grant. If you have any questions, please contact Andres Chovil in my office at andres.chovil@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,


Tulsi Gabbard
MEMBER OF CONGRESS