



## HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE

*`Aha`ōlelo Moku`āina `O Hawai`i*

STATE CAPITOL  
415 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

January 10, 2024

Dawn N.S. Chang, Chairperson  
Board of Land and Natural Resources  
DLNR Boardroom, Kalanimoku Building  
1151 Punchbowl Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha Chairperson Chang and members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

We are writing to support the grant of easement to the Hawaii State Department of Transportation (DOT) for Tax Map Key: (1) 2-2-014: portions of 012. This will allow DOT to reinstall a footbridge along the path leading from Auwaiolimu Street to Pauoa Elementary School as part of a Safe Routes to School project for students in the Punchbowl and Papakolea communities.

This path has been frequented by the students for many years. Since the removal of the deteriorating bridge, students have resorted to jumping over or scaling in and out of the canal near Auwaiolimu Street. Other routes to school involve walking along Auwaiolimu Street and down to Pauoa Road to access the school, which is an extensively longer route that also has safety concerns surrounding speeding and a lack of paved sidewalks. The footbridge will allow safe passage over the canal and provide a quick, protected route directly to campus for students who need to walk to and from school.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal and we ask that you approve the easement rights to DOT for this critical pedestrian project for the community.

Sincerely,

Carol Fukunaga  
State Senator, Senate District 11

Jenna Takenouchi  
State Representative, House District 27

Karl Rhoads  
State Senator, Senate District 13

Della Au Belatti  
State Representative, House District 26