

Cedric Gates
PO Box 1162
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February 23, 2016

Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board:
530 South King Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board:

My name is Cedric Gates, I am the Chair of the Waianae Coast Neighborhood Board, and Co-Chair of the transportation Committee. I am testifying as an individual, and a life-time resident of the Waianae Coast.

The Oahu Regional Transportation Plan (ORTP) 2040 is a Federally-required planning document that establishes a long-range vision for surface transportation on Oahu and identifies projects and programs to help achieve that vision. Projects in the ORTP become eligible for Federal funding assistance. The ORTP must be updated at least every five years. The deadline for the next update is April 2016. OahuMPO staff will make a presentation on the draft of the ORTP 2040.

Several ORTP projects fall within the Waianae Coast district, such as the Farrington Hwy. realignment, the Kalaeloa to Hakimo Road widening (Project 54/351), the Waianae by-pass road (Project 708), and multiple safety improvements (Project 51). I want to express my full support for these as well as any and all projects that can be made to further facilitate motorist and pedestrian safety, ease of traffic congestion, an easier commute for residents, better road infrastructure, and better transportation access for the Leeward coast in general.

As you know, Farrington Hwy. is the only access for residents of Makaha, Waianae, Maili, Nanakuli, Ko Olina, and Honokai Hale. With only two lanes in each direction, even minor issues like a stalled vehicle can create hours of traffic backlog, adding to an already brutal commute. Subsequently, with our ever worsening traffic problems, residents are pleading for fruition of an alternate route or by-pass road, highway widening, and other traffic improvements to be moved forward on the timeline of ORTP projects. I would like to urge the Board to consider this edit in their upcoming review.

While one geographic area should not have higher priority solely because of traffic, I would like to point out how nearly every other community in Oahu has some sort of an alternate access route. Our coast is lacking that completely, despite moving slowly ahead on securing limited emergency access via Kole Kole Pass sometime in the future, and trying to add on to the existing WCEAR (Waianae Coast Emergency Access Road) located throughout the Waianae Coast.

I would like to thank this Board for all their hard work and for taking the time to hear my testimony.
Sincerely, Cedric Gates