

## Amy Ford-Wagner

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**From:** Keeley Monroy <keeleymonroy@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 28, 2016 12:00 PM  
**To:** OahuMPO  
**Subject:** Wai'anae Coast Traffic Solutions - Resident Testimony

To whom it may concern:

Senator Shimabukuro recently posted her testimony to you on her website, [21maile.com](http://21maile.com). She invited the residents of the Wai'anae Coast to share their thoughts and feelings with you for the April 13, 2016 meeting. The following words come from one of those residents.

I want to make a special note that I have great respect and appreciation for Senator Shimabukuro and the time and effort she has committed to the residents of the Wai'anae Coast.

I am in the later year of an MBA program. For my current class, I chose to research the ongoing traffic conditions of the Wai'anae Coast. I fear that it has become a challenge as my quest for one answer still remains. I dove deep into the papers available on the OMPO's website. There is one quote from the *Report to the 2002 Hawaii Legislature* I would like to share with you:

" "include in their current study, or to conduct a comprehensive updated study which would offer several solutions to the traffic problems on the Waianae Coast, taking into account the changes on the Waianae Coast since the last comprehensive study over twenty years ago." It further said that "the study should determine the feasibility of each proposed solution and address several issues specifically, including: an alternate route to the Waianae Coast; an emergency route to and from the Waianae Coast to be used in times of emergency; speeding and unsafe driving; pedestrian safety; and increasing traffic flow on Farrington Highway due to a growing population on the Leeward side of Oahu"

These words were written in a 2000 House Draft to OMPO. Are they not the same exact issues which Senator Shimabukuro emphasizes in her testimony?

I have only one question and then perhaps I can finish my paper: Why in almost 16 years, have these issues not been solve permanently? Why? Monies have been allocated. Cultural issues addressed. Physical space limitations addressed. What is the obstacle that prevents you from improving and protecting the lives of the people on the Wai'anae Coast?

If we were to experience what happened in 1982 with the rage of Hurricane Iwa pounding down on the Westside, would we not have the same issues? Nothing has been resolved in almost 34 years!!! If Farrington Highway was washed out, how would ambulances get in? Out? How would residents be able to leave? It is not just addressing what has been a daily impediment for 34 years - It is about the lives of the people on the Wai'anae Coast. It is about my life. It is about Senator Shimabukuro's life. It about every single person here - the children, the homeless, the older, the younger - ALL OF US.

Our lives matter. Find out the answer to my question. Then deal with it so that we, too, may live as the rest of Oahu lives. Free.

Keeley Monroy  
Resident of Makaha