



**SSFM INTERNATIONAL, INC.**

99 Aupuni Street, Suite 202

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Project Managers, Planners, & Engineers  
American Council of Engineering Companies, Member

**KEA‘AU-PĀHOA ROAD IMPROVEMENTS  
KEA‘AU TO PĀHOA  
Project No. STP-0130(27)  
Public Informational Meeting No. 1**

Thursday, April 17, 2008 – 5:30 p.m.  
Kea‘au Community Center  
Kea‘au, Hawai‘i

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**PERSONS ATTENDING:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Email</b>
Mr. Glenn Yasui	HDOT, Highways Division	(808) 587-2220	<a href="mailto:glenn.yasui@hawaii.gov">glenn.yasui@hawaii.gov</a>
Mr. Darell Young	HDOT, Highway Planning	(808) 587-1835	<a href="mailto:darell.young@hawaii.gov">darell.young@hawaii.gov</a>
Mr. Nelson Sagum	HDOT, Highway Planning	(808) 587-1834	<a href="mailto:nelson.sagum@hawaii.gov">nelson.sagum@hawaii.gov</a>
Ms. Dina Lau	HDOT, Highway Planning	(808) 587-6307	<a href="mailto:dina.lau@hawaii.gov">dina.lau@hawaii.gov</a>
Mr. Stanley Tamura	HDOT, Hawaii District	933-8866	<a href="mailto:stanley.tamura@hawaii.gov">stanley.tamura@hawaii.gov</a>
Mr. Robert Taira	HDOT, Hawaii District	933-8866	<a href="mailto:robert.taira@hawaii.gov">robert.taira@hawaii.gov</a>
Mr. Francis Perez	HDOT, Hawaii District	933-8866	<a href="mailto:francis.perez@hawaii.gov">francis.perez@hawaii.gov</a>
Mr. Sal Panem	HDOT, Hawaii District	933-8866	<a href="mailto:sal.panem@hawaii.gov">sal.panem@hawaii.gov</a>
Ms. Tammy Lee	HDOT, Office of Civil Rights	(808) 587-2022	<a href="mailto:tammy.l.lee@hawaii.gov">tammy.l.lee@hawaii.gov</a>
Mr. Eric Worrell	FHWA	(808) 541-2700	<a href="mailto:eric.worrell@fhwa.dot.gov">eric.worrell@fhwa.dot.gov</a>
Ms. Cheryl Soon	SSFM International, Inc.	(808) 356-1268	<a href="mailto:csoon@ssfm.com">csoon@ssfm.com</a>
Mr. Hugh Ono	SSFM International, Inc.	933-2727	<a href="mailto:hono@ssfm.com">hono@ssfm.com</a>
Ms. Jo-Anna Herkes	SSFM International, Inc.	(808) 356-1260	<a href="mailto:jherkes@ssfm.com">jherkes@ssfm.com</a>
Ms. Heather Forester	SSFM International, Inc.	(808) 356-1258	<a href="mailto:hforester@ssfm.com">hforester@ssfm.com</a>
Ms. Genevieve Runningwind	SSFM International, Inc.	(808) 356-1272	<a href="mailto:grunningwind@ssfm.com">grunningwind@ssfm.com</a>
Ms. Michelle Agbigay	SSFM International, Inc.	(808) 356-1257	<a href="mailto:magbigay@ssfm.com">magbigay@ssfm.com</a>
Mr. Robert Yamada II	SSFM International, Inc.	(808) 356-1255	<a href="mailto:ryamada@ssfm.com">ryamada@ssfm.com</a>
Mr. Ron Terry	Geometrician Associates	969-7090	<a href="mailto:rterry@hawaii.rr.com">rterry@hawaii.rr.com</a>



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**PURPOSE:**

- To inform the public about the Kea‘au-Pāhoa Road Improvements Project and solicit members for the Context Sensitive Solutions Advisory Task Force.

**SUMMARY OF MEETING:**

**I. Open House Period (5:30 to 6:50 PM)**

Approximately 85 people were present and intently reviewed the exhibits, which included a map of the project corridor for participants to write their comments on.

**II. Presentations (6:50 to 7:40 PM)**

Jo-Anna Herkes brought the informational meeting to order and introduced the SSFM International, Inc. consultant team. She also introduced Dr. Keola Downing who was videotaping the meeting for broadcast on public television and indicated that Dr. Downing offered to provide the video for posting on the project website.

Glenn Yasui, HDOT Highways Administrator, opened the formal part of the program, welcomed everyone, introduced the elected official, HDOT staff and other government representatives present, and described the purpose of the meeting. Attached is a list of attendees and the organization they represented, if it was specified on the sign-in sheet.

Ron Terry presented the project PowerPoint presentation.

**III. Questions and Answers (7:40 to 8:30 PM)**

Glenn Yasui facilitated the Q&A period.

1. Yen Chen asked if under the Environmental Justice (EJ) issue, EJ participants can be compensated for their time and travel expenses since this can be an inhibitor to their participation.

*Mr. Yasui responded that participation is a volunteer activity.*



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2. Dan Domizio, who operates an urgent care clinic in Pāhoa, applauded the public participation approach. He stated it is imperative to do something in the meantime. He requested that the construction work start at the Pāhoa end. “This cannot wait” (applause received from some members of the audience). He introduced “Peter” who lost a leg due to an accident at the intersection of Highway 130 and Pāhoa Village Road.

*Stan Tamura reported that there are several projects planned. Intersection improvements along Highway 130 are scheduled at Kahakai Boulevard in 2010; and at Kaloli Drive, Orchidland Drive, and Ainaloa Boulevard in 2011. Widening of the shoulder lane between Kea‘au Bypass and Shower Drive is scheduled for 2010.*

A member of the audience said that policemen should be planted at the intersections to serve as traffic calming.

3. A woman who lives on the highway 100 feet from Shower Drive explained that it is very difficult to get out of her driveway in the morning. In the past, her daughter has gotten hit and a fence has been smashed several times.

*Stan Tamura stated as part of the Shoulder Lane Conversion project, a signal will be installed at Shower Drive.*

4. Elizabeth Weatherford said she was a co-signatory on a letter to the Governor and asked HDOT to reduce the speed limit to 45 mph. She asked HDOT how long it would take to change the speed limit. Ms. Weatherford turned to the audience as asked if they were in support to reduce the speed limit (some audience members applauded).

*Glenn Yasui stated that a speed study could be done.*

5. Guy Poulin who lives on the highway discussed unsafe pick up and drop off conditions for the school buses and that people pass on the right.

*Glenn Yasui introduced the “Five E’s” of HDOT: Engineering, Education, Enforcement, Emergency medical services, and Everything else.*

6. Stephanie Bath stated that she was on the Puna Community Development Plan Steering Committee. She felt the traffic forecasts did not account for increases in oil prices that would result in a reduced amount of people



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using their cars. Stephanie submitted written comments, but read from a section stressing collaborative efforts and open meetings. She felt roundabouts should be used wherever feasible. Stephanie expressed concern that the Kea‘au-Pāhoa Road Improvements Project will use a Context Sensitive Solution approach, yet a signal is already planned at the intersection of Highway 130 and Shower Drive without any public input.

7. Fred Blas who lives in Hawaiian Beaches described a head on collision he had at the Malama Market intersection.
8. Jon Olson asked if the Task Force would be made aware of the civil rights complaint and the unresolved issues.

*Glen Yasui responded that HDOT is very aware of the civil rights complaint and will fill in the Task Force members.*

Jon Olson also made the following comments:

- a. HDOT needs to look at other ways to reduce traffic other than just building lanes.
  - b. “HDOT took a substandard road and ‘improved it’ into the most dangerous road in the state.”
  - c. Brennon Morioka, in a meeting at Maku‘u Market, made promises for improvements because of community pressure.
  - d. Kea‘au- Pāhoa Road should be a “No Left Turn” corridor.
  - e. Need to decide on the merits of roundabouts versus signals.
9. Dr. Keola Downing expressed an overwhelming want for roundabouts. He provided written testimony.
  10. Frankie Stapleton was on the Puna Community Development Plan Transportation Working Group and made the following comments:
    - a. Speed and substance abuse, as stated by HDOT, are major problems, but so is poor roadway design. The community should not be entirely blamed for the problem.
    - b. Some examples of poor design are the slow change of light timing at Highway 130 and the Pāhoa-Kapoho Road intersection, and conflicting speed limit signs along the morning shoulder lane.
    - c. Police officers should be placed immediately along Highway 130. They will serve as traffic calmers and educators.



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11. Steve Sparks of Pāhoa commented on the lack of crosswalks at any of the seven intersections. He said that the children have to WAIT, WAIT, WAIT and RUN.

*Glenn Yasui said the State could look into that.*

12. Manny Mattos who lives on the highway and is a retired policeman asked to be on the Advisory Task Force because he wants to find solutions. He questioned whether HDOT realizes the seriousness of their problem.
13. Marie Bricker requested that task force members be selected from both sides of the highway, not just from the Hawaiian Paradise Park side. She lives in Orchidland, which has lots of commercial activity. Marie felt that the intersection counts at Orchidland need to be re-taken. She questioned why the Kea‘au Bypass which is built to a “higher standard” is posted as 45 MPH speed limit as compared to the two lane section which is higher (55 MPH). She said that she does not understand why money is an issue (general rumblings of agreement from the crowd).
14. Mei Ling Okimoto who owns a house next to the highway near the Filipino Church described the major flooding that occurs fronting her property. She said that the drainage system does not work because when it rains, her property and the roadway fronting the highway floods. She explained that a sign needs to be placed along the roadway to warn drivers of the slippery surface. Ms. Okimoto brought pictures to show the District Engineer.
15. Cathy Stevens who lives in Hawaiian Shores, reported that the intersection at Malama Market should be closed off and a traffic signal installed. She also indicated that she does not like the idea of a roundabout.
16. Guy Poulin spoke again. He explained that the State should address things quicker.
17. Stephanie Bath spoke again. She asked that the State use temporary signals, similar to that used in the construction zone in Hamakua, at the intersections along Highway 130.
18. Lizi Olson an employee of Glover Construction, who is familiar with the temporary traffic signals in Hamakua, said that these lights experience a high frequency of failures and would be a bad idea.



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19. A person rose to thank the HDOT for the fantastic job they did last year during the heavy rains.
20. Dennis Higgins inquired about the time commitment required by the Advisory Task Force.

*Cheryl Soon stated that approximately six meetings are expected to occur.*

21. Erica Johnson said that the community has been giving its ideas for three years, but all they see are studies. She said that she's glad everyone is here, but they need immediate relief. She noted there is a division of thinking about roundabouts.
22. Jim Klyman recommended that the cars of repeat traffic offenders be impounded, similar to what is done for repeat offenders of drunk driving.

**PERSONS ATTENDING:**

Government and Elected Officials

J Yoshimoto	Hawaii County Council, District 3
Bruce McClure	County of Hawaii, Public Works Department
Larry Brown	County of Hawaii, Planning Department
Gwen Kapalu	County of Hawaii
William Makanui	State Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL)
Glenn Yasui	HDOT, Highways Division
Darell Young	HDOT, Highways Planning
Nelson Sagum	HDOT, Highways Planning
Dina Lau	HDOT, Highways Planning
Stanley Tamura	HDOT, Hawaii District
Sal Panem	HDOT, Hawaii District
Robert Taira	HDOT, Hawaii District
Frances Perez	HDOT, Hawaii District
Tammy Lee	HDOT
Eric Worrell	FHWA

Consultant Team

Cheryl Soon	SSFM International, Inc.
Hugh Ono	SSFM International, Inc.
Jo-Anna Herkes	SSFM International, Inc.
Heather Forestert	SSFM International, Inc.
Genevieve Running	SSFM International, Inc.
Michelle Agbigay	SSFM International, Inc.
Robert Yamada	SSFM International, Inc.
Ron Terry	Geometrician Associates, LLC.

Private Individuals

	Abcde	
Stephanie	Bath	Puna
Fred	Blas	
Betty	Blas	
Marie	Bricker	Orchidland Subdivision
Anna Marie	Canario	
Sherri	Carden	Orchidland
Michelle	Champion	
Yen	Chin	OLCA
Harold	Ching	
Tom	Cummins	Hawaiian Shores
Ala	Cummins	
Malia	DeFay-Brown	Puna News and Pahoia Weed & Seed
Al	Detteiler	Leilani Community Association
Tyson	Domen	
Felipe	Domingo	
Dan	Domizio	Puna Community Medical Center

Dr. Keola	Downing	
Randolf	Duldalao	Chuch of Christ
Gary	Etis	
Ren	Frigert	
David	Fukumoto	Fuku-Bonsai
Scott	Gaston	Willocks Construction
Ronnette	Gonsalves	Tobacco Education Program
Peter	Gonsalves	
Ray	Grillot	
Roger	Hawney	OLCA
Walter	Higa	
Dennis	Higgins	HPP Owners Assn - Road/Traffic/Safety Policy Committee
Kalawe	Jana	HPP
Erica	Johnson	
Wayne	Joseph	
Stacie	Kapaku Souza	
Wendy	Karimoto	
Paula K.	Kekehua	Makuu Farmers Association
Kelvin	Kohatsu	HELCO
Colin	Kuwahara	
Jim	Kylman	
Dino	Lacpal	
Kimo	Lee	W.H. Shipman
Barbara	Linley	
Susan	Lopez	Puna
Carlos	Lopez	
Brooks	Maloof	
Phen	Maloof	
Ewalani	Marzo	
Manny	Mattos	
Jan	McGrath	
Neri	Moevao	Big Feet Hawaii
Bob	Nelson	HVC
Mei Ling	Okimoto	
Jon	Olsen	Puna Traffic Safety
Lisa	Olson	Jas. W. Glover, Ltd.
Evelyn	Patterson	OCLA
Shirley	Pedro	Makuu Farmers Association
Delan	Perry	
Paulette	Poulin	
Guy	Poulin	
Andrea	Rosanoff	
Liz	Salfen	Puna
Benjamas	Seengsiri	
Steve	Sparks	
Chuck	Spencer	
Charles	Stanton	
Judy	Stenger	
Darrell	Stephens	
Kathleen	Stephens	
Linda	Swallow	



Gary	Thomas	Sure Foundation
Freditas	Udani	Prudential
Adam	Warre	HPP
Bill	Water	W.H.S.
Allen Dale	Watson	HPPOA
Elizabeth	Weatherford	PCDP/Transporation Working Group
Bertie	Webber	
Nina	Webber	
Earl	Yoshimura	
Diane	Gentry	