

# FAQ's: Leeward Coast Traffic Relief Projects and Proposals

*Aloha! I wanted to correct some misinformation and clear up confusion that I noticed residents were having about all the current traffic relief efforts occurring on the Leeward Coast.*

There are currently **THREE** separate projects - all happening in the same general area - which are all aimed at alleviating various traffic concerns.

## **Project 1: Farrington Hwy. Widening Project**

In a previous legislative session I obtained \$2M for this project, which will add turn lanes down the center of Farrington Highway. DOT aims to complete the turn lanes at Nanakuli Avenue and Haleakala Avenue by 2017. The project has experienced some delay due to technical problems as they dig up the area. However, construction crews are working as fast as they can, and it's great to see progress occurring. The latest news on this project is that they are attempting to extend the turn lane construction all the way to Hakimo Road. If they are able to achieve this extension it is anticipated to take about 7 years.

*View the original plans in a power point presentation at the following link:*

[http://hidot.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/2015\\_03\\_04\\_Farrington\\_Hwy\\_Noise\\_Variance\\_PIM\\_Presentation.pdf](http://hidot.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/2015_03_04_Farrington_Hwy_Noise_Variance_PIM_Presentation.pdf)

## **Project 2: Contraflow Lane/Farrington Highway**

This is the most recent announcement by HDOT and a completely separate project from the widening described above. However, the contraflow lane should help alleviate some traffic caused because of the widening construction work. It is slated to be an afternoon/westbound traffic option, from Piliokahi Avenue to Helelua Street.

HDOT will be attending the March Nanakuli-Maili Neighborhood Board meeting, and the April Waianae Neighborhood Board meeting, to further discuss details and get community input. Implementation of this lane is expected towards the end of the summer, and it will be in place for a 1 year trial period, after which HDOT may adjust it as necessary. The HDOT press release with information about this pilot project is on the other side of this insert.

*Here is a link to information on Hawaii News Now's report:*

<http://21maile.com/2016/02/26/hnn-22616-contraflow-lane-for-waianae-coast/>

## **Project 3: Waianae Coast Emergency Access Road (WCEAR) - PROPOSED extension**

The potential WCEAR extension is an on-going proposal being worked on by elected officials, the City, DHHL, HPD, area residents, and others. Currently, routes between Helelua St. and the Nanakuli Homestead, as well as between Nanakuli Ave. and Piliokahi Ave., are the next two pieces that would give the largest impact.

The group working to find the best solution. The hope is that a route can be found without having to relocate any homes or DHHL lessees.

Peter Hirai, the Deputy Director of the City and County of Honolulu's Department of Emergency Management (DEM) will present a 20 minute update on the WCEAR to the Waianae Neighborhood Board on **Tuesday, April 5 at 7:00pm at Waianae District Park.** (Note: DOT will also be presenting regarding the contra flow project in Nanakuli at that same meeting).



*On 2/26/2016, HPD representatives attended a tour to view potential sites for a WCEAR extension.*

*L-R: Sgt. Allen, **Sen. Shimabukuro**,  
Lieutenant Chan, and Sgt. Lin.*

DEM will also be presenting a WCEAR update at the Nanakuli-Maili Neighborhood Board on **Tuesday, April 19 at 7:00pm at Nanaikapono Elementary School.**

The public is also invited and encouraged to attend meetings hosted by the Ahupua`a o Nanakuli Homestead group regarding the WCEAR. **The next meeting is on 04/11/16.** These meetings occur every 2nd Monday at 7pm at Ka Waihona o ka Na`auao public charter school cafeteria.

Here is a link to more information about WCEAR:

<http://www.oahumpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Waianae-Emergency-Access-Road-EA-2001.pdf>

(Note: Search for Waianae Emergency Access Road to view the 300+ page report on oahumpo.org)



# STATE DOT UPDATE: Contraflow Lane

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DAVID Y. IGE, GOVERNOR  
FORD N. FUCHIGAMI, DIRECTOR  
For Immediate Release

## FARRINGTON HIGHWAY CONTRAFLOW PILOT PROJECT AIMS TO BRING TRAFFIC RELIEF TO WAIANAE COAST

The Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) formally announces plans to begin a contraflow lane on Farrington Highway in Nanakuli later this year. Governor David Ige directed HDOT to develop operational solutions to improve mobility around our state. Gov. Ige specifically requested that HDOT implement a contraflow on Farrington Highway to improve the quality of life for our residents on the Leeward Coast.

The Nanakuli contraflow pilot project will create a third lane of travel for westbound drivers on Farrington Highway from 3 pm – 7 pm every weekday, excluding holidays. The mile-long contraflow lane is planned to begin at Piliokahi Avenue and continue past Helelua Street. During the contraflow hours signs, cones and markers will be displayed to safely convert the eastbound lane to create three Waianae bound lanes and one Honolulu bound lane.

HDOT is in the process of developing conceptual plans. During the contraflow hours, mobility on Farrington will be prioritized, and some turning movements from mauka and makai will be disallowed. Due to the turning restrictions, U-turn access points are being coordinated with the City & County of Honolulu to minimize impacts to drivers and area residents.

We are currently working with City & County of Honolulu Department of Transportation Services and Oahu Transit Services to coordinate technical requirements. HDOT has scheduled appearances before the area Neighborhood Boards in March and April to gather input from the community before implementing the plans.

“Governor Ige is fighting for our residents and wants to begin projects that can be implemented quickly and improve conditions immediately,” said Ford Fuchigami, Hawaii Department of Transportation. “We are focusing the majority of our resources on maximizing our existing highway system, rather than capital improvements that will take years to finish.”

***With the upcoming community input and feedback, HDOT anticipates the contraflow could be developed during the summer and implemented before the Beat the School Jam and the start of the next school year.***

We appreciate the partnership with **Sen. Maile Shimabukuro** who has been pushing for traffic improvements on Farrington Highway and has been working towards those improvements over the past several years.

“Implementing the Governor’s vision is made easier when working with community champions like Sen. Shimabukuro,” said Ed Sniffen, Hawaii Department of Transportation Deputy Director, Highways Division. “We are also moving forward with the study to extend the fifth lane on Farrington Highway to Hakimo Road and we are implementing a solution that will work now.”

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Tim Sakahara/Public Information Officer  
State of Hawaii Department of Transportation



***Along with Sen. Maile Shimabukuro and Senate President Ron Kouchi, HDOT Deputy Director Ed Sniffen announces plans to develop a conceptual plan for a contraflow pilot project on Farrington Highway.***