

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI
MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION
COMMITTEE

June 7, 2019

Committee
Report No. _____

Honorable Chair and Members
of the County Council
County of Maui
Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii

Chair and Members:

This report recommends adoption of a resolution urging the Mayor to create a Vision Zero Advisory Group to work toward the elimination of roadway deaths and serious injuries.

Your Multimodal Transportation Committee, having met on May 16, 2019, makes reference to County Communication 19-90, from Councilmember Sugimura, relating to Vision Zero: Eliminating Traffic Fatalities and Injuries.

By correspondence dated April 9, 2019, and received April 30, 2019, Lauren Armstrong, Executive Director of the Maui Metropolitan Planning Organization, transmitted a proposed resolution to support the creation of a Vision Zero Advisory Group.

By correspondence dated May 6, 2019, the Chair of your Committee transmitted a revised proposed resolution entitled "URGING THE MAYOR TO CREATE A VISION ZERO ADVISORY GROUP." The purpose of the revised proposed resolution is to urge the Mayor to create a Vision Zero Advisory Group to advise the Mayor, the County Council, and the appropriate committees on policies and ordinances necessary to support the implementation of Vision Zero in Maui County.

The revised proposed resolution states: "to continue working towards a future with zero traffic fatalities in Maui County, a Vision Zero Advisory Group comprised of representatives from the County of Maui, the State of Hawaii, and private nonprofit organizations should be established."

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Your Committee received written testimony in support of the revised proposed resolution from Morgan Gerdel, an architect and ride leader with the Maui Bicycling League, and Jennifer Maydan, a professional planner who chairs the Healthy Eating Active Living Coalition for Maui, Molokai, and Lanai ("HEAL").

Your Committee also received supportive verbal testimony from Ms. Maydan and Lauren Loor on behalf of HEAL; Laks Abraham and Kaimana Brummel on behalf of the Blue Zones Project; and Robin Hagen, whose husband, Karl Hagen, died after being hit by a motor vehicle while he was riding a bicycle in Kihei.

The testifiers told your Committee a Vision Zero Advisory Group could advise County officials on policies and programs that would not only improve safety for all users of Maui County roadways but also promote transportation modes that are conducive to public health and social equity.

Your Committee notes Vision Zero is an international framework with the mission to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries, while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all, as stated in the revised proposed resolution. Originating in Sweden in the 1990s, Vision Zero utilizes a multidisciplinary, comprehensive approach to designing the built environment to account for the likelihood of human mistakes while simultaneously increasing opportunities for multiple modes of transportation, such as walking, bicycling, and wheelchair use.

The Maui Metropolitan Planning Organization Director gave examples of fatal crashes on Maui, illustrated potential safety solutions, and outlined how a Vision Zero Advisory Group could be integrated with current County and State transportation programs. She said Vision Zero on Maui would align with current Maui County initiatives such as:

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- the Complete Streets projects on Papa Avenue, Onehe`e Avenue, Kanaloa Avenue, and Lower Main Street;
- the North Shore Greenway;
- the West Maui Greenway; and
- the Kihei Bikeway.

Your Committees notes the creation of a Vision Zero Advisory Group would advance a number of policies and implementing actions in the Countywide Policy Plan, including the following:

Policies:

- Support the use of alternative roadway designs, such as traffic-calming techniques and modern roundabouts.
- Increase route and mode options in the ground-transportation network.
- Provide and encourage the development of specialized transportation options for the young, the elderly, and persons with disabilities.
- Ensure that roadway systems are safe, efficient, and maintained in good condition.
- Make walking and bicycling transportation safe and easy between and within communities.
- Design new and retrofit existing rights-of-way with adequate sidewalks, bicycle lanes, or separated multi-use transit corridors.
- Support the development of a countywide network of bikeways, equestrian trails, and pedestrian paths.
- Support the reestablishment of traditional trails between communities, to the ocean, and through the mountains for public use.
- Encourage educational programs to increase safety for pedestrians and bicyclists.

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Implementing Actions:

- Design, build, and modify existing bikeways to improve safety and separation from automobiles.
- Increase enforcement to reduce abuse of bicycle and pedestrian lanes by motorized vehicles.

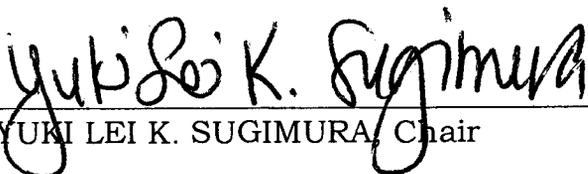
Your Committee thanked Ms. Armstrong and the testifiers for sharing their well-informed viewpoints and expressed its support for the Mayor's creation of a Vision Zero Advisory Group.

Your Committee voted 5-0 to recommend adoption of the revised proposed resolution and filing of the communication. Committee Chair Sugimura and members Kama, King, Paltin, and Sinenci voted "aye." Committee Vice-Chair Hokama and member Lee were excused.

Your Multimodal Transportation Committee RECOMMENDS the following:

1. That Resolution _____, attached hereto, entitled "URGING THE MAYOR TO CREATE A VISION ZERO ADVISORY GROUP," be ADOPTED; and
2. That County Communication 19-90 be FILED.

This report is submitted in accordance with Rule 8 of the Rules of the Council.



YUKI LEI K. SUGIMURA, Chair

Resolution

No. _____

URGING THE MAYOR TO CREATE A VISION ZERO ADVISORY GROUP

WHEREAS, the safety and health of Maui County's residents are our utmost priority; and

WHEREAS, the fundamental message of Vision Zero is that all traffic deaths are preventable and unacceptable; and

WHEREAS, Vision Zero is a comprehensive strategy to eliminate all traffic deaths and severe injuries while promoting safe, healthy, and equitable mobility for all; and

WHEREAS, vehicle speed is a major factor in crash outcomes – the likelihood of pedestrians surviving a crash is 10 percent if hit by a vehicle moving 50 miles per hour or faster; and

WHEREAS, people walking and bicycling, who are often children or elderly, represent a disproportionate number of injuries and fatalities; and

WHEREAS, on a national and statewide level Vision Zero policies focus on safety as a primary objective in designing transportation projects; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution 12-34, which established the County of Maui's Complete Streets Policy, the Council expressed its commitment to safe mobility for all roadway users; and

WHEREAS, to continue working towards a future with zero traffic fatalities in Maui County, a Vision Zero Advisory Group comprised of representatives from the County of Maui, the State of Hawaii, and private nonprofit organizations should be established; and

WHEREAS, the Vision Zero Advisory Group would create a Maui Vision Zero Action Plan, which would identify priorities relating to data collection; traffic enforcement; and design and construction of safe roadways, intersections, sidewalks, and paths that could bring Vision Zero to fruition; and

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WHEREAS the Vision Zero Advisory Group would advise the Mayor, the County Council, and the appropriate committees on policies and ordinances, including budget ordinances, necessary to support the implementation of Vision Zero; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Maui:

1. That it hereby urges the Mayor to establish a Vision Zero Advisory Group to develop Vision Zero goals, strategies, and policies to prevent traffic-related fatalities and injuries.
2. That certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the the Managing Director, the Planning Director, the Director of Public Works, the Director of Transportation, the Fire Chief, the Chief of Police, the Corporation Counsel, the Director of Housing and Human Concerns, and the Mayor.