

A photograph of two children walking away from the camera on a crosswalk. The crosswalk is painted with blue and orange geometric patterns. The child on the left is wearing a blue hoodie and jeans, carrying a black backpack. The child on the right is wearing a black hoodie and denim shorts, carrying a red backpack. A large, stylized banner with the text 'KEAUKAHA QUICK BUILD' is overlaid on the top half of the image.

KEAUKAHA QUICK BUILD

PARTNERS

- County of Hawai'i
- Hawai'i Public Health Institute
- Ka 'Umeke Kā'eo Public Charter School
- Keaukaha Elementary School
- Kamehameha Schools Keaukaha Preschool
- Kawehi Mahi-Roberts, Artist
- Office of Councilmember Susan Lee Loy
- PATH - People for Active Transportation Hawai'i
- Planning for Community
- SSFM
- State of Hawai'i Department of Hawaiian Homelands
- State of Hawai'i Department of Health

QUICK BUILD

What is a "Quick Build"?

Hawai'i faces climate, affordability, and street safety crises. All can be addressed simultaneously by prioritizing the safety for all – from keiki to kūpuna — through low-cost, super-effective active transportation improvements. However, we can't wait for every street to be reconfigured around walking, biking, and transit through lengthy construction processes — and we don't have to!

Quick build projects meet community needs faster and more dynamically.

They typically take less than a year to implement and are iterative processes that use flexible installation materials, such as paint and moveable barriers, to support safer walking, biking, and transit. Although smaller in scale, we know creating protected spaces for people "walking and rolling"¹ helps make these activities more desirable and likely. For example, walking is three times more common in a community with pedestrian-friendly streets than in otherwise comparable communities.² **So, if walking conditions improve, then more people are likely to walk.**

In addition, one of the major benefits of a quick build is that we can see if the new design works before investing significant capital resources (e.g., Is there demand for these new modes in this new location? Will people bike and walk here? How will the drivers respond realistically?).

Why was it right for Keaukaha?

Keaukaha Elementary School is the community piko (center) of one of our oldest Hawaiian Homestead communities and is more than 100 years old with well-documented school safety concerns from its 2015 Safe Routes to Schools report. These improvements made to the surrounding area of the school not only benefitted the 500+ keiki in the area, but the community as a whole – including the large number of daily kūpuna walkers. More than 80% of residents chose the project design that supported people walking and biking the most, which is a continuous 2,000 feet protected walking and biking pathway around the entire school campus with extensive community art in the curb extension helping to making crossings much safer. This overwhelming support for the project coupled with the County of Hawai'i's Vision Zero Action Plan, which found that pedestrians are eight times more likely to be killed on Hawai'i Island roads than drivers, showing that the need for the project was undeniable.

¹ "Walking and rolling" is a term intended to encompass all possible modes of active transportation, including those who travel with mobility devices.

² <https://www.vtpi.org/tdm/tdm4.htm>

Keaukaha Elementary School Quick Build

Meeting communities where they already are, especially our Native Hawaiian friends and neighbors were very effective. Since May of 2022, the project has been able to provide school goers and community members with a safe area to walk and bike. Although COVID-19 inhibited some in-person outreach, the team pivoted to holding open houses at socially distanced, outdoor vaccine fairs, along with direct mailings to households. The team shared the survey's outcomes and described how the results directly shaped the final design. This reporting back on how their input was used and would be reflected in the design was critical for providing transparency to the process, maintaining trust, and building support for implementation.



Art can tell the story of a place AND improve pedestrian safety. Two artists from Keaukaha were hired to talk story with the community about their deep connections and love for both the people and aina. One artist is a painter and she designed three large murals for the bulb outs around the piko. Each mural represented a plant that had deep significance to the community of Keaukaha. She then created the outlines of the art on the pavement and the community members came – elders, parents, students, staff, and community partners then collaboratively painted the murals on the pavement at the artist's direction. The other artist is a videographer who crafted a video that highlighted the Keaukaha community members sharing their feelings and perspectives about Keaukaha and why this project is so meaningful. The video demonstrated that community care IS a road safety intervention, and underscoring how asphalt art like this improves pedestrian safety even more.³

RESULTS & IMPACT

WALKING
DISTANCES
DROPPED
BY

40-55%



WALKING
TIMES
REDUCED
BY

60%

HELPED MORE THAN 350 PEOPLE CROSS SAFELY ON A SUMMER SATURDAY AND OVER 80 PEOPLE DAILY WERE SAFER.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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The project's
story is available at

<https://vimeo.com/733805542>
as well as local media interviews
with the artist at can be viewed at
[https://www.youtube.com/
watch?v=jX6HRGHurb4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jX6HRGHurb4)

³ [https://assets.bbhub.io/dotorg/sites/43/2022/04/
Asphalt-Art-Safety-Study.pdf](https://assets.bbhub.io/dotorg/sites/43/2022/04/Asphalt-Art-Safety-Study.pdf)