

SOUTH MAUI QUICK BUILD

▼ Community volunteers on painting day (May 3rd and 4th, 2025)



Street Art to the Max

Why was it right for South Maui?

What is a “Quick Build”?

Hawai‘i faces a climate and street-safety crisis. Both can be addressed simultaneously by prioritizing safety — from keiki to kūpuna — through low-cost, super-effective improvements that make walking and biking safer and more comfortable. We can’t wait for every street to be reconfigured through lengthy construction processes — and we don’t have to!

Quick build projects meet communities’ needs faster and more dynamically. They typically take less than a year to implement. They are iterative processes that use flexible installation materials, such as paint and moveable barriers, that support safer walking, biking, and transit. Creating protected spaces for people walking and rolling makes these activities more desirable and likely. The absence of a sidewalk can increase the risk of injury while walking by 67%.¹ Recent research in Hawai‘i suggests that those with supportive built environments are 15% more likely to walk and bike.² In addition, one of the major benefits of a quick build is that the build can serve as a test to understand 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?).

People in South Maui experience insufficient safe walking and biking connections along major roadways like South Kihei Road and Pi‘ilani Highway, creating challenges for residents trying to access schools, stores, jobs and more. Between 2012 and 2024, 185 collisions involving vehicles and pedestrians or bicyclists were reported in South Maui. Ten of these collisions resulted in fatalities.³ As a result, the County of Maui installed sidewalk curb extensions and painted bike lane conflict areas at the intersection of Kenolio Road and Alulike Street. In support of this, the Maui Metropolitan Planning Organization helped further transform the area through street art. This intersection was chosen because it is well-suited to a quick-build approach, helps deliver faster changes in our communities, and allows the County to make headway on its long list of projects. Moreover, the street art highlights the importance of these changes in a way that engages the community in the design choices, colors, and ambience.



¹ <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/35007964/>

² Kop, S., & Keliikoa, L.B. (2025). Supportive Neighborhood Environments for Physical Activity in Hawai‘i Communities. Data brief prepared by the Healthy Hawai‘i Evaluation Team, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. Link forthcoming

³ Maui VZ plan.

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Partners

- County of Maui
- Hawai'i Department of Health
- Hawai'i Public Health Institute
- Maui Metropolitan Planning Organization
- SSFM International
- Ulupono Initiative

Before Street Art Project



▲ Curb extensions and bike conflict marking quick build treatments at Kenolio Road and Alulike Street (February 13, 2024)


Completed South Maui Quick Build



▲ Street Art Project (May 14, 2025)

What did we learn?

- **Be aware of permit and plan requirements:**


 Different projects may require different types of documentation, which can vary widely depending on the scope and location. Required items may include, but are not limited to, a street use permit or a traffic control plan. It is important to understand what is needed early in the process and to include any deadlines in the project planning schedule to avoid delays.

- **Be flexible with scheduling:**



Keeping painting sessions short — ideally around 2–3 hours — helps maintain volunteer energy and ensures the event remains lively and well-attended. Shorter sessions are also easier to manage and schedule throughout the day. Organizing volunteers into small teams and allowing flexible time commitments — whether for an hour or several days — supports broader participation.

- **Capture the process:**

 Document the quick build event with plenty of photos and videos. Encourage participants to share content on social media using a project-specific hashtag to help build momentum and visibility. More than 250 people participated in the design and implementation of the artwork, many of whom live 1 mile of the intersection.

"It brings to life the cultural significance and heritage of this area of Kihei."

Results and Impacts

People's crossing time dropped from 40–50%, meaning people walking were less vulnerable to vehicles and traffic.



More than 80% also thought the street art had greatly improved the neighborhood's character, while 58% of participants indicated they feel safer walking or biking in the area since the street art installation.

80%



View the full report from Maui Metropolitan Planning Organization:
mauimpo.org/south-maui-quick-build-final-report

For more information, visit mauimpo.org.