THE ROLE OF CARS IN THE CITY

LEARNING GOALS

- To practice drawing connections between local challenges and global contexts and best practices.
- To understand the impacts (social, environmental, health, etc.) of car-centered urban areas.
- To think critically about the relationship between urban design and sustainability.

ASSIGNMENT

Estimated Time: ~23 min
- Watch "Superblocks: How Barcelona Is Taking City Streets Back from Cars" (5:30)
- Read "As the Nation Turns, Hawaii is Still Driven" (~10 min)
- Read "How Honolulu Lost Its Top Ranking For The Nation's Worst Traffic" (~7 min)

TERMINOLOGY

- **Superilles ("Superblocks")** - an urban design experiment in Barcelona to reduce car traffic and make streets more people-friendly.
- **Streetscape** - The visual elements of a street, including the road, adjoining buildings, street furniture, trees and open spaces, etc, that combine to form the street's character.
- **Urbanization** - the increase over time in the population of cities in relation to rural areas
- **Zoning** - the process of dividing land in a municipality into zones in which certain land uses are permitted or prohibited. Two zoning categories include:
    ◊ **Residential** - areas zoned as "residential" are only allowed to be used for housing.
    ◊ **Commercial** - areas zoned as "commercial" are only allowed to be used for business, including offices, hotels, shopping centers, etc.

KAHOOT QUIZ

- Go to Kahoot.it or use the Kahoot mobile app and enter the pin 08989056
- Or, use this link

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What are the pros and cons of a city designed for cars?
- What did Barcelona do to reduce congestion in the city?
- Have you ever been in a streetscape (in Hawaii or abroad) that was pedestrian-only (no cars)? What was it like? Share your experience with others, or show them via google maps.
- The video ended with a quote saying, "the model whereby every city resident comes with a car and drives a car everywhere…limits the health and growth of the city." Why is that?

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (continued)

- According to the article, what factors increase the number of cars in Honolulu?
- What could Hawaii do (or is doing) to make cities and towns more people-centered (as opposed to car-centered?)
- How does urban design relate to the sustainability of a city? (social, economic, environmental, individual)

IDEAS FOR ACTION

Easier
- Help to reduce the number of cars on the road: Walk, ride your bike, take public transport, or car-pool to school and other places more often
- Educate yourself: do more research on urban planning, urban sprawl, transit-oriented development, and other important topics in the field

Medium
- Walk around your neighborhood and take pictures of areas that you think are not people-friendly or are designed for cars, not people. Create a catalogue of what's wrong and what you'd like to see change. Write to your city council or state legislators about what you think should be changed and why it matters to you.
- Spread awareness about the link between urban design and sustainability: do a class presentation
- Educate: hold a forum or invite a guest speaker in the field of urban planning.
    - ◊ Ideas on where to find guest speakers: UH Department of Urban and Regional Planning or contact PAAC.

Hard
- Policy advocacy: research bills in the city council and state legislature related to urban planning. Write and submit testimony.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- City & County of Honolulu - Complete Streets Program
  See what Honolulu is doing to make its streets safer and more accessible for all modes of transportation, not just cars.

HAWAII CORE STANDARDS FOR SOCIAL STUDIES (HCSSS) LINKS

- Content Standard SS.WH.8.12.1
- Content Standard SS.US.3.15
- Content Standard SS.US.12.16
- Content Standard SS.MHH.4.9.1
- Action Projects link to SS.PID.5.7.1