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April 1, 2015

Testimony Supporting SB415

Aloha Chair Rhoads and Esteemed Members of the Judiciary Committee, Hawaii Bicycling League **supports SB415**. This bill is needed to bring our traffic law in alignment with widely accepted best practice for safe bicycle operation.

SB415 will allow someone operating a bicycle to signal a right-turn by extending his or her right hand and arm horizontally from the right side of the bicycle. Currently, a bicyclist signaling a right turn must extend his or her left hand and arm from the left side of the bicycle with the arm bent upward at the elbow. This hand signal requirement is based on someone operating a motor vehicle, in which only his or her left arm is visible for signaling.

There are several advantages in the right turn signal with the right hand and arm, which result in safer bicycling and safer interactions between bicyclists and other roadway users.

- **It's more easily understood** – Due to almost all motor vehicles being equipped with electronic turn signals, most people are not familiar with standard hand signals. Pointing right with the right arm is much more easily understood by all.
- **It's easier to teach to bicyclists** – Teaching a cyclist “point in the direction you are going to turn” is a simple, intuitive, and easily taught concept. This will lead to more bicyclists signaling.
- **It's most visible to those that matter most** – The right hand signal is most visible to those to the right of the bicyclist, who will be the most impacted by the right turn.

Thank you very much for considering the comments of the Hawaii Bicycling League. If you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please contact Chad Taniguchi (808-735-5756, chad@hbl.org) or Daniel Alexander (808-275-6717, daniel@hbl.org).

Ride and Drive Aloha,

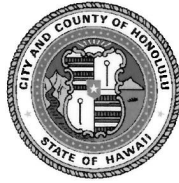
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chad Taniguchi". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Chad Taniguchi
Executive Director
Hawaii Bicycling League

Daniel Alexander
Advocacy Director
Hawaii Bicycling League

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES
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March 31, 2015

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Judiciary
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 325
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: Senate Bill No. 415 Relating to Bicycle Signals

The Department of Transportation Services supports Senate Bill No. 415, which clarifies how bicyclists can signal their turning movements. Our Department is working to make Honolulu a bicycle-friendly city through engineering, programs and policies. This bill is consistent with our efforts and would help to make bicycling safer, which is a healthy and clean mode of transportation.

Currently, Hawaii Revised Statute 291C-86 (1) requires all road users, including bicyclists, to signal right turning movements by extending their left arm upward. This is necessary for motorists and motorcyclists but not for bicyclists. Bicyclists are able to safely use their right arm to signal right turning movements, which is clearly understandable and more intuitive.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 415.

Very truly yours,


Michael D. Formby
Director