

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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March 2, 2015

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Transportation
State Senate
State Capitol, Room 204
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee:


SUBJECT: Senate Bill No. 415 Relating to Bicycle Signals

The Department of Transportation Services supports Senate Bill No. 415 Relating to Bicycle Signals, 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. Senate Bill No. 415 will allow bicyclists to safely use their right arm to signal right turning movements, which is more understandable and intuitive.

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

Very truly yours,


Michael D. Formby
Director

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March 2, 2015
Senator Clarence Nishihara,
Chair Transportation Committee

Testimony Supporting SB415

Aloha,
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,

Chad Taniguchi
Executive Director
Hawaii Bicycling League

Daniel Alexander
Advocacy Director
Hawaii Bicycling League

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [TRA Testimony](#)
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB415 on Mar 3, 2015 14:45PM*
Date: Friday, February 27, 2015 11:59:46 AM

SB415

Submitted on: 2/27/2015

Testimony for TRA on Mar 3, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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