

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



TESTIMONY BY:

JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
LYNN A.S. ARAKI-REGAN
DEREK J. CHOW
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

February 4, 2019
1:15 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 225

S.B. 410
RELATING TO TRAFFIC CODE

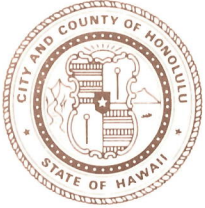
Senate Committee on Transportation

The Department of Transportation supports S.B. 410.

The preliminary data shows that 43 pedestrians were killed in traffic crashes during calendar year 2018. That is a record number of people that were tragically taken from their families and friends.

Increasing the penalties can help reduce the amount of pedestrian fatalities by making drivers more aware of the presence of pedestrians on and near the roadways, especially in crosswalks.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3065
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RON MENOR

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Council Vice Chair
District 9*

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WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

TESTIMONY OF
COUNCIL CHAIR EMERITUS & VICE CHAIR RON MENOR
COUNCIL DISTRICT 9
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

Senate Bill 410
RELATING TO THE TRAFFIC CODE

LATE

Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Harimoto and Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation:

I am testifying in support of Senate Bill 410.

On January 30th, the Honolulu City Council unanimously approved Council Resolution 18-287 CD1 (see attached):

Urging the Hawaii State Legislature to strengthen the existing governing pedestrian safety at crosswalks by increasing the penalties for violations.

State and City government need to be proactive in addressing the alarming increase in pedestrian accidents and fatalities. For example, the number of pedestrian fatalities increased 180 percent statewide from 2017 to 2018.

It's a growing problem and there is no panacea. Government needs to implement a multifaceted approach that involves a range of solutions including increased penalties for those who violate pedestrian safety laws and installation by the City of more safety improvements at crosswalks and intersections.

I also hope this measure will stimulate further public discussion about ways the State and City can enhance pedestrian safety.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.



RESOLUTION

URGING THE HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE TO STRENGTHEN THE EXISTING STATUTE GOVERNING PEDESTRIAN SAFETY AT CROSSWALKS BY INCREASING THE PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS.

WHEREAS, pedestrian safety and walkable neighborhoods are priorities for the City and County of Honolulu; and

WHEREAS, each year the State of Hawaii averages 24 pedestrian fatalities and 560 pedestrian injuries from being struck by motorists; and

WHEREAS, according to the Hawaii State Department of Health, Hawaii has the highest pedestrian fatality rate in the nation for older adults; and

WHEREAS, according to the Hawaii State Department of Transportation, 43 pedestrians died in traffic accidents statewide in 2018, with 27 of those deaths occurring in the City and County of Honolulu; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, 15 pedestrians died in traffic accidents statewide, with 12 of those deaths occurring in the City and County of Honolulu; and

WHEREAS, these figures reflect an approximately 180 percent increase in pedestrian traffic deaths from 2017 to 2018 statewide, and 125 percent increase in pedestrian traffic deaths in the City and County of Honolulu; and

WHEREAS, according to the Hawaii State Department of Transportation, one pedestrian has died in a traffic accident in the City and County of Honolulu during the period of January 1, 2019 through January 16, 2019; and

WHEREAS, Hawaii Revised Statutes ("HRS") Section 291C-72(a) requires all vehicles to stop and allow a pedestrian to cross the roadway within a crosswalk when the pedestrian is upon the half of the roadway on which the vehicle is traveling, or when the pedestrian is approaching closely enough from the opposite side of the roadway to be in danger; and

WHEREAS, current monetary penalties for violation of HRS Section 291C-72(a) are a \$150 fine for a first time offense, a \$300 fine for a second offense, and a \$1,000 fine for third and subsequent offenses; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City and County of Honolulu considers these penalties to be insufficient in deterring risky or dangerous behavior by drivers on our roadways and protecting our pedestrians; now, therefore,



CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII

No. 18-287, CD1

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that the State Legislature is strongly urged to strengthen the existing statute governing pedestrian safety at crosswalks by increasing the penalties for violation of this statute; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Council that it suggests increasing the monetary penalties for a first offense from \$150 to \$300, for a second offense from \$300 to \$750, and for third or subsequent offenses from \$1,000 to \$1,500; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the Hawaii State Senate, the Speaker of the Hawaii State House of Representatives, and the Governor.

INTRODUCED BY:

Ron Menor

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

December 10, 2018
Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers

CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII
CERTIFICATE

RESOLUTION 18-287, CD1

Introduced: 12/10/18 By: RON MENOR

Committee: PUBLIC SAFETY,
WELFARE AND
TRANSPORTATION


Title: RESOLUTION URGING THE HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE TO STRENGTHEN THE EXISTING STATUTE GOVERNING PEDESTRIAN SAFETY AT CROSSWALKS BY INCREASING THE PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS.

Voting Legend: * = Aye w/Reservations

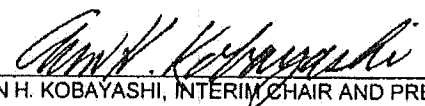
01/24/19	PUBLIC SAFETY, WELFARE AND TRANSPORTATION	CR-22(19) – RESOLUTION REPORTED OUT OF COMMITTEE FOR ADOPTION AS AMENDED IN CD1 FORM.
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01/30/19	COUNCIL	CR-22(19) AND RESOLUTION 18-287, CD1 AS AMENDED WERE ADOPTED. 8 AYES: ANDERSON, ELEFANTE, FUKUNAGA, KOBAYASHI, MANAHAN, MENOR, PINE, TSUNEYOSHI.
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I hereby certify that the above is a true record of action by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu on this RESOLUTION.



GLEN I. TAKAHASHI, CITY CLERK



ANN H. KOBAYASHI, INTERIM CHAIR AND PRESIDING OFFICER

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET · HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 529-3111 · INTERNET: www.honoluluupd.org



KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR

SUSAN BALLARD
CHIEF

JOHN D. McCARTHY
JONATHON GREMS
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE

AP-GR

February 4, 2019

The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
and Members
Committee on Transportation
State Senate
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 225
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Inouye and Members:

SUBJECT: Senate Bill No. 410, Relating to the Traffic Code

I am Andre Peters, Acting Captain of the Traffic Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu. The HPD supports the passage of Senate Bill No. 410, Relating to the Traffic Code.

The passage of this bill would increase the penalties for motorists who violate a pedestrian's right-of-way while in a crosswalk. It also aims to increase driver awareness and pedestrian safety.

The HPD urges you to support Senate Bill No. 410, Relating to the Traffic Code.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

APPROVED:

Handwritten signature of Susan Ballard in black ink.

Susan Ballard
Chief of Police

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Andre Peters in black ink.

Andre Peters, Acting Captain
Traffic Division

LATE

SB-410

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 8:14:50 AM

Testimony for TRS on 2/4/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Victor K. Ramos	Testifying for Maui Police Department	Support	No

Comments:

SB-410

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 10:15:55 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/4/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I was hit by a "distracted" driver and spent two days in the hospital. A metal rod was implanted in my arm. It is time these drivers paid the price. Too bad you cannot have them pay out of pocket all the expenses those of us harmed have to pay, doctor bills, hospital bills, medication, physical therapy, etc. Maybe then they will learn a lesson. However, this bill is a good first start.

You also need to fix the law so pedestrians who do not own a car get the same coverage as those who do own cars. For us, insurance only covers \$10,000. For those who own cars \$20,000 is covered.

Lynne Matusow