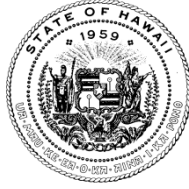


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



**TESTIMONY BY:**

JADE T. BUTAY  
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors  
LYNN A.S. ARAKI-REGAN  
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EDWIN H. SNIFFEN

**LATE**

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

February 21, 2018  
9:00 A.M.  
State Capitol, Room 016

**S.B. 98**  
**RELATING TO CROSSWALK SAFETY.**

Senate Committee on Judiciary

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The Department of Transportation **supports** S.B. 98.

This bill clarifies to the motor vehicle operator when to yield to a pedestrian by specifying when a pedestrian is within an intersection or adjacent crosswalk or crossing the roadway within a crosswalk.

By including a pedestrian's assistance devices, this will keep these pedestrians safer by requiring drivers to give them more space to traverse the roads and to be more respectful of those that require additional needs as means to travel to their destinations.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**LATE**

Dear Senators,

I write in support of this bill (Senate Bill 98) as I have unfortunately witnessed a few close calls when pedestrians are crossing. I hope to never witness another close call that ends with someone's life being taken. Both pedestrians and drivers have a shared responsibility to adhere to the traffic laws once we leave our homes. This bill clarifies the preconceived notion of drivers always having the right-of-way when a pedestrian is seen crossing. Growing up on Maui, there has been an increase in roadwork to accommodate the growing number of drivers in traffic and updated crosswalks to promote pedestrian safety. Unfortunately prior to the updated crosswalks there have been 43 Pedestrian fatalities in 2018 statewide, per an article posted by Hawaii News Now on January 3, 2019. I support this bill with the hopes that fewer lives are put at risk, and drivers are better aware of their surrounding while on the road. The purpose and intent of SB98 is clear and necessary to keep pedestrians safe as well as clarify to all drivers that they do not always have the right-of-way when approaching a crosswalk.

Sincerely,  
Melissa Echiverri