

JAN 21 2010

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING INSTRUCTION AND TESTING IN DRIVERS EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND
DRIVERS LICENSING EXAMINATIONS TO PROMOTE THE SAFETY OF
BLIND PEDESTRIANS.

1 WHEREAS, section 286-108.4, Hawaii Revised Statutes,
2 directs the Director of Transportation to establish and certify
3 a statewide driver education program and behind-the-wheel driver
4 training program, including the number of course hours,
5 curriculum, and certification of teachers; and
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7 WHEREAS, section 302A-413, Hawaii Revised Statutes, allows
8 the Department of Education to establish and administer a motor
9 vehicle driver education and training program for public high
10 school students, and to issue a certificate of completion to
11 every student upon satisfactory completion of the course; and
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13 WHEREAS, section 347-19, Hawaii Revised Statutes, provides:
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15 A blind or visually handicapped person not
16 carrying a cane or using a guide dog in any of
17 the places, accommodations or conveyances listed
18 in section 347-13, shall have all of the rights
19 and privileges conferred by law upon other
20 persons, and the failure of a blind or visually
21 handicapped person to carry a cane or to use a
22 guide dog in any such places, accommodations, or
23 conveyances shall not constitute nor be evidence
24 of negligence; and
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26 WHEREAS, pedestrians who are blind present a potentially
27 dangerous condition for drivers who may not realize that the
28 blind person probably does not see them, a situation that could
29 result in a serious accident; and
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31 WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the driver to take
32 extraordinary precautionary measures when the driver sees a
33 blind pedestrian; and
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35 WHEREAS, pedestrians have the right-of-way in a crosswalk
36 pursuant to section 291C-72, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and



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WHEREAS, driver education programs need to stress appropriate safe driving measures concerning blind pedestrians; and

WHEREAS, section 286-108, Hawaii Revised Statutes, provides that the examiner of drivers of each county shall examine an applicant for a driver's license on the applicant's knowledge of rules of the road, among other things; and

WHEREAS, driver's license examination should include questions concerning safe driving behavior towards blind pedestrians; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010, that the Director of Transportation and the Superintendent of Education are urged to include in the driver education programs under their respective departments appropriate driver instruction and training to promote the safety of blind pedestrians; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the examiner of drivers of each county is urged to include questions in the drivers' licensing written examination to promote the safety of blind pedestrians; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Transportation, Superintendent of Education, and the Examiner of Drivers for each county.

OFFERED BY: Joananne Chun Oakland
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