
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO INCLUDE THE "DUTCH
REACH" OR FAR HAND METHOD IN DRIVER'S EDUCATION CURRICULA.

1 WHEREAS, in Hawaii and many major cities in the United
2 States and around the world, an increasing number of
3 environmental initiatives have encouraged people to ride
4 bicycles as a means of transportation; and
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6 WHEREAS, there are many residents and visitors in Hawaii
7 who ride bicycles for transportation and for recreation, and
8 they are vulnerable to severe injuries and death due to drivers
9 and passengers negligently exiting their vehicles into traffic,
10 bicycle pathways, and sidewalks; and
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12 WHEREAS, recent studies confirm that cyclists crashing
13 into, over, or beside an obstructing vehicle door, also known as
14 doorings, account for up to twenty percent of the most common
15 accidents between bicycles and vehicles in major cities; and
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17 WHEREAS, the act of dooring is found to be a problem of
18 negligence in which the careless, impulsive, and rapid opening
19 of car doors and over-reliance on mirror views compromise driver
20 and passenger vigilance and awareness; and
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22 WHEREAS, dooring can be lessened or even eliminated by
23 teaching safer behaviors in driver's education courses so that
24 these behaviors become the habitual practices of citizens
25 learning to drive in Hawaii; and
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27 WHEREAS, the Dutch Reach, or far hand method, is a safer
28 behavior that involves using the far-side hand to open a car
29 door rather than the closest hand to the door; and
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31 WHEREAS, because reaching across one's body to open the
32 door with the far hand forces one's torso and head to swivel to



1 view the side mirror it provides an unobstructed view backwards
2 to watch for oncoming cyclists and traffic; and
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4 WHEREAS, the Dutch Reach also naturally results in a slow
5 and gradual door opening; prevents sudden, widely pushed or
6 flung doors; and allows a person to more easily and quickly
7 retract the door; and
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9 WHEREAS, widespread use of the Dutch Reach will make people
10 exit vehicles in a safer manner, improving overall bicycle
11 safety and significantly minimizing the number of accidents
12 involving bicycles and vehicles each year; and
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14 WHEREAS, with early instruction and continuous use, the
15 Dutch Reach will become the usual practice of more vehicle
16 users; now, therefore,
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18 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
19 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
20 of 2018, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
21 Transportation is urged to include instruction on the Dutch
22 Reach in driver's education programs in the State; and
23

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
25 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of
26 Transportation.

