WHEREAS, in Hawaii and many major cities in the United States and around the world, an increasing number of environmental initiatives have encouraged people to ride bicycles as a means of transportation; and

WHEREAS, there are many residents and visitors in Hawaii who ride bicycles for transportation and for recreation, and they are vulnerable to severe injuries and death due to drivers and passengers negligently exiting their vehicles into traffic, bicycle pathways, and sidewalks; and

WHEREAS, recent studies confirm that doorings, in which a cyclist may crash by abruptly braking because of crashing into, over, or beside an obstructing vehicle door, account for up to twenty percent of the most common accidents between bicycles and vehicles in major cities; and

WHEREAS, the act of dooring is found to be a problem of negligence in which the careless, impulsive, and rapid opening of car doors and over-reliance on mirror views compromise driver and passenger vigilance and awareness; and

WHEREAS, dooring can be lessened or even eliminated by teaching safer behaviors in driver's education courses so that these behaviors become the habitual practices of citizens learning to drive in Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, the Dutch Reach method is a safer behavior that involves using the far-side hand to open a car door rather than the closest hand to the door; and

WHEREAS, normalizing the Dutch Reach method will make both cyclists and people exiting vehicles safer because reaching
across to open the door forces one's torso and head to swivel to view the side mirror and provides an unobstructed view backwards to watch for oncoming cyclists and traffic; and

WHEREAS, the Dutch Reach method also naturally results in a slow and gradual door opening; prevents sudden, widely pushed or flung doors; and allows a person to more easily and quickly retract the door; and

WHEREAS, with early instruction and continuous use, the Dutch Reach method will become the usual practice of more vehicle users; and

WHEREAS, widespread use of the Dutch Reach method will improve overall bicycle safety and significantly minimize the number of accidents involving bicycles and vehicles each year; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018, that the Department of Transportation is urged to include instruction on the Dutch Reach method in driver's education programs in the State; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Transportation.