
HOUSE 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 doorings, in which a
13 cyclist may crash by abruptly braking because of crashing into,
14 over, or beside an obstructing vehicle door, account for up to
15 twenty percent of the most common accidents between bicycles and
16 vehicles in major cities; and
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18 WHEREAS, the act of dooring is found to be a problem of
19 negligence in which the careless, impulsive, and rapid opening
20 of car doors and over-reliance on mirror views compromise driver
21 and passenger vigilance and awareness; and
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23 WHEREAS, dooring can be lessened or even eliminated by
24 teaching safer behaviors in driver's education courses so that
25 these behaviors become the habitual practices of citizens
26 learning to drive in Hawaii; and
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28 WHEREAS, the Dutch Reach method is a safer behavior that
29 involves using the far-side hand to open a car door rather than
30 the closest hand to the door; and
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32 WHEREAS, normalizing the Dutch Reach method will make both
33 cyclists and people exiting vehicles safer because reaching



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1 across to open the door forces one's torso and head to swivel to
 2 view the side mirror and provides an unobstructed view backwards
 3 to watch for oncoming cyclists and traffic; and
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5 WHEREAS, the Dutch Reach method also naturally results in a
 6 slow and gradual door opening; prevents sudden, widely pushed or
 7 flung doors; and allows a person to more easily and quickly
 8 retract the door; and
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10 WHEREAS, with early instruction and continuous use, the
 11 Dutch Reach method will become the usual practice of more
 12 vehicle users; and
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14 WHEREAS, widespread use of the Dutch Reach method will
 15 improve overall bicycle safety and significantly minimize the
 16 number of accidents involving bicycles and vehicles each year;
 17 now, therefore,
 18

19 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 20 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
 21 of 2018, that the Department of Transportation is urged to
 22 include instruction on the Dutch Reach method in driver's
 23 education programs in the State; and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 26 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Transportation.
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OFFERED BY:

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