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

March 15, 2019
10:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 423

**S.B. 693 S.D. 2
RELATING TO THE STATEWIDE TRAFFIC CODE.**

House Committee on Transportation

The Department of Transportation **supports with an amendment** S.B. 693, S.D. 2 to provide an operational clarification for pedestrian countdown timers by amending section 291C-33 Hawaii Revised Statutes.

We request SECTION 2.(3) to read as follows:

(3) Countdown timer. If the pedestrian-control signal is equipped with a countdown timer, no pedestrian shall start to cross the roadway in the direction of such signal once the countdown begins, but any pedestrian who has partially completed the pedestrian's crossing when the countdown begins shall complete the crossing to a sidewalk or safety island before the countdown timer ends.

This will provide consistency with the meaning of the "Don't Walk" or "Upraised Palm" pedestrian signal indications. Clarifying that a pedestrian can finish their crossing and not start their crossing when countdown numbers are displayed will reduce pedestrian confusion.

As written, S.B. 693, S.D. 2 will allow people to start their crossing after the countdown has begun. This will decrease overall intersection safety especially for elderly persons and children, our most vulnerable pedestrians, as they may incorrectly judge the time needed to complete their crossing. In addition, the result of more pedestrians crossing after the countdown begins comes the increase potential for pedestrian and vehicle accidents due to added pedestrian-vehicle conflicts, and less or smaller gaps in traffic for turning vehicles.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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OUR REFERENCE AP-GR

March 15, 2019

The Honorable Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair
and Members
Committee on Transportation
House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 423
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Aquino and Members:

SUBJECT: Senate Bill No. 693, S.D. 2, Relating to the Statewide Traffic Code

I am Andre Peters, Acting Captain of the Traffic Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu. The HPD supports the passage of Senate Bill No. 693, S.D. 2, Relating to the Statewide Traffic Code.

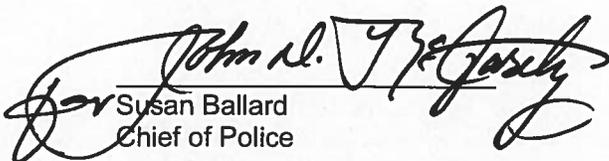
The passage of this bill would clarify what the responsibilities are for pedestrians. Statewide, there are numerous pedestrian control signals. The section related to pedestrian control signals was last amended in 1981 and has not included control signals with countdown timers. These countdown timers are sometimes used by pedestrians to gauge whether or not they can safely cross the street before the time runs out or if they should wait for the next signal cycle. We have seen faulty control signals where only the countdown timer is displayed without an upraised palm or "Don't Walk" signal.

Although we fully support this bill, we request amending it to address faulty control signals. If a control signal does not display anything other than a countdown timer, a pedestrian should not enter the crosswalk if the countdown timer has already started. If the pedestrian has partially completed crossing the crosswalk then the pedestrian should continue to the opposite sidewalk or safety island.

The HPD urges you to support Senate Bill No. 693, S.D. 2, Relating to the Statewide Traffic Code, and thanks you for the opportunity to testify.

APPROVED:

Sincerely,


Susan Ballard
Chief of Police


Andre Peters, Acting Captain
Traffic Division