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March 25, 2019
2:00 P.M.
State Capitol, Room 325

LATE TESTIMONY

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

House Committee on Judiciary

The Department of Transportation **supports** S.B. 693 S.D. 2 H.D. 1 to provide an operational clarification for pedestrian countdown timers by amending section 291C-33 Hawaii Revised Statutes.

As written, S.B. 693 S.D. 2 H.D. 1 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. This will improve 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

POLICE DEPARTMENT
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LATE

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OUR REFERENCE AP-GR

March 25, 2019

The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair
and Members
Committee on Judiciary
House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 325
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Lee and Members:

SUBJECT: Senate Bill No. 693, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, 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, H.D. 1, 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.

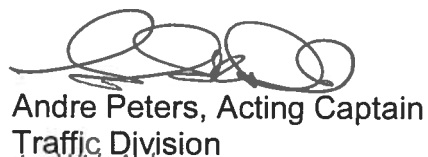
We fully support this amended version that instructs pedestrians not to start crossing once the countdown begins.

The HPD urges you to support Senate Bill No. 693, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, 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

Serving and Protecting With Aloha

SB-693-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2019 12:31:03 PM

Testimony for JUD on 3/25/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chad Taniguchi	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

I believe our streets must be accessible to all and vulnerable users such as pedestrians, bicyclists, and road users should have first priority.

Therefore, as a responsible pedestrian I believe it is my duty to determine, based on my physical condition at the time, whether I can cross the street safely before the light turns red. This judgment will be different when I am 20, 60, and 90. If I fail to cross by the time the light turns red I should be given a ticket.

But to prevent me from starting to cross the street, when, say the timer says 1 have 23 or 19 or 15 seconds, when I know I can make it, actually makes it harder to access the streets.

If this equivalent philosophy was extended to drivers, then no driver should enter the intersection on yellow either.

Please consider this California law, which I think gets it right: when flashing, walk if you think you can make it. when steady, don't enter.

(a) A "WALK" or approved "Walking Person" symbol means a pedestrian facing the signal may proceed across the roadway in the direction of the signal, but shall yield the right-of-way to vehicles lawfully within the intersection at the time that signal is first shown.

(b) A flashing "DON'T WALK" or "WAIT" or approved "Upraised Hand" symbol with a "countdown" signal indicating the time remaining for a pedestrian to cross the roadway means a pedestrian facing the signal may start to cross the roadway in the direction of the signal but must complete the crossing prior to the display of the steady "DON'T WALK" or "WAIT" or approved "Upraised Hand" symbol when the "countdown" ends.

(c) A steady "DON'T WALK" or "WAIT" or approved "Upraised Hand" symbol or a flashing "DON'T WALK" or "WAIT" or approved "Upraised Hand" without a "countdown" signal indicating the time remaining for a pedestrian to cross the roadway means a pedestrian facing the signal shall not start to cross the roadway in the direction of the

signal, but any pedestrian who started the crossing during the display of the "WALK" or approved "Walking Person" symbol and who has partially completed crossing shall proceed to a sidewalk or safety zone or otherwise leave the roadway while the steady "WAIT" or "DON'T WALK" or approved "Upraised Hand" symbol is showing.

(Amended by Stats. 2017, Ch. 402, Sec. 1. (AB 390) Effective January 1, 2018.)