

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 17 2006

RE: H.B. No. 2422
H.D. 1
S.D. 1

Honorable Robert Bunda
President of the Senate
Twenty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2006
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Transportation and Government Operations,
to which was referred H.B. No. 2422, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HIGHWAY SAFETY,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to increase the penalties for
motorists who violate Hawaii's crosswalk law.

This measure provides penalties as follows:

- (1) For a first conviction, a fine of not less than \$150;
- (2) For a second conviction, a fine of not less than \$300;
and
- (3) For a third or subsequent conviction, committed within
one year of the date of the second offense, a fine of
not less than \$1000.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Department of Transportation, Honolulu Police Department,
and the Public Defender.

Act 73, Session Laws of Hawaii 2005, amended the crosswalk
law to clarify when a motorist has a duty to come to a complete
stop for a pedestrian in a crosswalk. However, according to a
November 13, 2005 article in the *Honolulu Advertiser*, despite a



highly publicized new law to protect pedestrians, the number of people killed in crosswalks has increased forty-three percent this year and the State could have its highest number of pedestrian traffic deaths in five years.

According to testimony of the Department of Health, pedestrian deaths and injuries in Hawaii are a serious public health problem. Pedestrian injuries rank sixth among the leading causes of fatal injuries for all ages groups in Hawaii. Alarmingly, Hawaii had the highest pedestrian fatality rate for seniors in the nation over the 1999-2003 period. The lack of safe walking and particularly crossing conditions on roadways thwarts the mobility of pedestrians and their ability to exercise, denying them a proven health benefit.

Your Committee finds that the crosswalk law needs to be strengthened by enhanced penalties as a deterrent and punishment to drivers who do not stop for pedestrians.

Your Committee has amended this measure by deleting its contents and inserting provisions of S.B. No. 2385, S.D. 1, a companion measure that restores the harsher penalties of license revocation and imprisonment and is effective upon its approval.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Transportation and Government Operations that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2422, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2422, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Transportation and
Government Operations,


LORRAINE R. INOUE, Chair



