
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING A STUDY OF STATE AND COUNTY INTERSECTIONS TO
DETERMINE WHETHER TRAFFIC SIGNALS PROVIDE SUFFICIENT TIME
FOR ELDERLY PEDESTRIANS TO CROSS THE STREET.

1 WHEREAS, in 2004 SMS Research & Marketing Services, Inc.,
2 prepared the *Elderly Pedestrian Integration Report* for the
3 Department of Transportation (DOT) that indicated that there are
4 approximately 560 pedestrian injuries in Hawaii each year, and
5 that an average of 28 pedestrians die each year after being
6 struck by a car; and
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8 WHEREAS, in the first few months of 2007, Oahu has already
9 experienced ten pedestrian fatalities, compared to four
10 fatalities for the same time period in 2006, an over two-fold
11 increase that is a cause of major concern for all the people of
12 Hawaii; and
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14 WHEREAS, elderly pedestrians, age 65 and older, constituted
15 the highest number of pedestrian fatalities when compared to all
16 other age groups in Hawaii; and
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18 WHEREAS, Hawaii's pedestrian fatality rate for elderly
19 pedestrians is 169 percent higher than any other state in the
20 nation; and
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22 WHEREAS, the length of time a flashing indication (hand
23 symbol) is displayed at signalized crosswalks is calculated
24 based on the length of the crosswalk and the nationally
25 recognized average walking speed of pedestrians; and
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27 WHEREAS, elderly pedestrians need more time to cross major
28 intersections due to diminishing physical abilities and,
29 considering that an elderly pedestrian generally crosses the
30 street at a slower walking speed, limited timeframes to cross
31 the street safely put elderly pedestrians at risk; and
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33 WHEREAS, a recent "walkability survey" of many of Hawaii's
34 busiest streets and intersections conducted by the AARP Hawaii



1 staff, volunteers, and community partners, identified many
2 intersections where the timeframes to cross the street safely
3 were too short, especially for elderly and very young
4 pedestrians; and
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6 WHEREAS, the length of a flashing indication should be
7 sufficient for elderly pedestrians to cross the street safely
8 and Hawaii's elderly pedestrians should not have to rush to
9 cross the street; and
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11 WHEREAS, problem intersections and roadways need to be
12 quickly identified and any problems corrected so that pedestrian
13 safety for all of Hawaii's residents and visitors, especially
14 the elderly, disabled, and very young, can be improved; now,
15 therefore,
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17 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
18 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
19 Session of 2007, that DOT is requested to conduct a study, in
20 conjunction with each county, to identify state and county
21 intersections where the time to cross the intersection may be
22 insufficient for pedestrians to cross, especially elderly and
23 disabled pedestrians; and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study also include the
26 impact that lengthening the pedestrian walk-times will have on
27 current traffic volumes and congestion, along with remedies to
28 alleviate negative effects of the lengthening of pedestrian
29 walk-times; and
30

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DOT submit an interim report,
32 including proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than
33 20 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2008
34 and a final report to the Legislature no later than 20 days
35 prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2009; and



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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Directors of DOT and the
3 transportation departments of each county.
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