

From: whigg007@aim.com
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2009 10:48 PM
To: TRNtestimony
Subject: Committee of Transportation, Saturday 2/24/09

This testimony is directed to the COMMITTEE OF TRANSPORTATION, which is meeting on FEBRUARY 14TH 2009 at 0900 in Conference Room 309, State Capitol, 415 S. Beretania St., Honolulu, HI

My name is William Higgins from Kaneohe. I am a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist at Kaiser Moanalua Facility. More importantly I am a cyclist and pedestrian and am deeply concerned with the safety of those two activities.

I wish to comment on two measures you plan to discuss on Saturday.

HB1632 Concerning specific cycling safety measures
HB1697 Concerning bicycle registration fees

I strongly support HB1632. This bill brings Hawaii up to par with a number of other states who are proactively trying to protect their "other" roadway users. I support it in it's entirety with the following comments:

1. There seems to be an absence of what the penalties might be with infractions to this law, or even the degree of the infraction, ie misdemeanor or felony etc. I also feel a definition of bodily injury might be added for completeness.
2. I feel the "safe passing margin" would better be defined as a distinct distance. It is five feet in Arizona and the League of American Cyclists recommends 3 to 5 feet for instance. This is a very important part of the bill and will give the motor vehicle driver some concrete direction to their driving practice. Then again...as I write...perhaps your wording may be more effective because it gives a visualization of the distance, but how does this concern enforcement.
3. Page 2 line 20-23 and Page 3 lines 1-3. are difficult to understand. I have reread them many times and still I am unsure what the thought is.

I applaud you and thank you for the consideration given to the cyclists safety. It is in the best interest of everyone in Hawaii. Please pass this measure.

I do not support HB 1697.

First I can think of no justification for increasing bicycle registration fees. Inflation is not a good reason. The state of Hawaii should encourage it's citizens to bicycle. Increasing registration fees is not a way to do this and is actually a disincentive.

As I mentioned I am a active cyclist, practically by thrice weekly commutes to work and recreationally. I speak from experience. While I feel the State, City and the DOT has shown some improvement in it's efforts to create some equality with it's "other" roadway users, the progress has been painfully slow.

I would like to see meaningful improvement before you start charging us more to use the roads. I think most Hawaii cyclists would feel the same.

This testimony is respectfully submitted.

William Higgins
Kaneohe, HI 96744

A Good Credit Score is 700 or Above. See yours in just 2 easy steps!