
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND THE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES OF THE CITY AND
COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO IMPLEMENT A PEDESTRIAN FLAG SAFETY
PROGRAM.

1 WHEREAS, in 2009, sixteen pedestrians were killed by motor
2 vehicles state-wide; and

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4 WHEREAS, in June 2005, Hudson Falls became the first
5 community in the State of New York to implement a pedestrian
6 safety program using flags at crosswalks to make crossing
7 pedestrians more noticeable to motorists at busy thoroughfares;
8 and

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10 WHEREAS, under this program, flag-holding containers with
11 Day-Glo flags are installed on both sides of the street at
12 crosswalks, and pedestrians wishing to cross the street can
13 retrieve a flag and wave it to gain motorist's attention when
14 crossing the street; and

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16 WHEREAS, on January 12, 2010, Hidenno Matsumoto, an 81-year
17 old Nuuanu resident, was fatally injured when she was struck by
18 a sport utility vehicle while trying to cross the Pali Highway;
19 and

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21 WHEREAS, the driver of the sport utility vehicle told
22 police investigators that she simply didn't see Matsumoto; and

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24 WHEREAS, four days later, Virginia Kawauchi, a Kailua
25 resident, set out approximately thirty homemade flags, each
26 inscribed with the phrase "In loving memory of Hidenno
27 Matsumoto", on each side of three crosswalks along the Pali
28 Highway; and

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30 WHEREAS, the flags are held in bins that invite pedestrians
31 to take a flag across the street for increased safety, to wave
32 the flag to alert drivers, and to place the flag in the bin
33 across the street for the next pedestrian; and



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 2 WHEREAS, when asked about her efforts, Kawauchi stated that
 3 she felt if the flags saved one life, then it will have been
 4 worth it; and

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 6 WHEREAS, the pedestrian flag approach, now used in thirteen
 7 states, has greatly increased motorists' compliance in giving
 8 pedestrians the right of way at crosswalks; now, therefore,
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10 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 11 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
 12 of 2010, that the Department of Transportation, with the
 13 assistance of the Department of Transportation Services of the
 14 City and County of Honolulu, is requested to implement a
 15 pedestrian flag safety program; and
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the pedestrian flag safety
 18 program shall be designed to provide flags to pedestrians at
 19 designated crosswalks determined by the Department of
 20 Transportation to be particularly dangerous to crossing
 21 pedestrians; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
 24 Transportation is requested to report to the Legislature on the
 25 pedestrian flag safety program no later than twenty day prior to
 26 the convening of the Regular Session of 2012; and
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 29 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Transportation and
 30 the Director of the Department of Transportation Services of the
 31 City and County of Honolulu.
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OFFERED BY: Marilyn B. Lee
~~Tom Brum~~ Karen Arana
~~John M. Hays~~ Jessica Woolley
RTO Kal Moody