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Senator J. Kalani English, Chair  
Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND  
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

Senator Will Espero, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY,  
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

March 12, 2012, 1:15 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

**Regarding H.B. 2030, HD2 Relating to the Statewide Traffic Code**

Chair English, Chair Espero, Vice-Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Cindy Kamikawa, Vice President, Nursing, Trauma, ED and Chief Nursing Officer of The Queen's Medical Center (QMC), testifying in **strong support** for H.B. 2030, H.D.2, Relating to Statewide Traffic Code.

The purpose of this bill is to require motorists to vacate the lane closest to a stationary emergency vehicle or reduce speed until safely clear. An emergency vehicle is defined to include, amongst others, ambulances. This bill would protect first responders throughout the state.

The recent tragic loss of both HPD Officers Eric Fontes and Garret Davis are evidence of the dangers first responders encounter while performing their vital public safety duties. This measure is necessary to clarify motorists' responsibility to ensure the safety of first responders and provides a measure of deterrence in the form of criminal charges. This measure, coupled with public education, will raise awareness and will result in increased safety.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



DWIGHT TAKAMINE  
DIRECTOR

AUDREY HIDANO  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

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March 12, 2012

The Honorable J. Kalani English, Chair  
Committee on Transportation and  
International Affairs  
The State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 205  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair  
Committee on Public Safety, Government  
Operations, and Military Affairs  
The State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 231  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs English and Espero:

Subject: H.B. 2030, H.D. 2 Relating to the Statewide Traffic Code

I am Kenneth G. Silva, Chair of the State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD). The SFC and the HFD support H.B. 2030, H.D. 2, which proposes to require motorists to vacate the lane closest to a stationary, authorized emergency vehicle when passing on a highway or reduce their driving speed until safely clear of the stationary, authorized emergency vehicle, with the following recommended revisions:

Change the term "ambulance" to "emergency medical services vehicle," as this would be inclusive of the different vehicles used by Emergency Medical Services personnel.

Include "Ocean Safety and Lifeguard Services vehicle," as Ocean Safety and Lifeguard Services personnel also provide emergency response and aid in a variety of situations that are not only limited to the beach or ocean areas.

The Honorable J. Kalani English, Chair  
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We believe this bill will bring a greater awareness of the potential dangers that exist to first responders who are focused on the immediate needs of others on our busy highways.

The SFC and the HFD urge your committees' support on the passage of H.B. 2030, H.D. 2.

Should you have any questions, please contact SFC Administrator Socrates Bratakos at 723-7151 or [sbratakos@honolulu.gov](mailto:sbratakos@honolulu.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kenneth G. Silva".

KENNETH G. SILVA  
Chair

KGS/LR:cn