

POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET · HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
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KIRK CALDWELL  
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DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE RN-GR

February 22, 2018

The Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair  
and Members  
Committee on Judiciary  
House of Representatives  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 325  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Nishimoto and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill No. 1632, Relating to Bicycles

I am Ryan Nishibun, Major of the Traffic Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD supports the passage of House Bill No. 1632, Relating to Bicycles.

In 2017, there were 260 motor vehicle collisions that involved bicycles. Bicycle riders pose a hazard on the roadways, especially on multilane roadways because they normally travel slower than the speed of vehicular traffic and are less visible due to their size. Mandating that bicyclists ride in bicycle lanes when available, with the exceptions provided by law, would minimize the possibilities of vehicle collisions and injuries and provide safer travel for all those who utilize our streets.

The HPD urges you to support House Bill No. 1632.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

APPROVED:

  
Susan Ballard  
Chief of Police

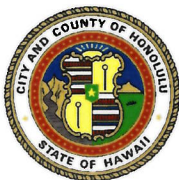
Sincerely

  
Ryan Nishibun, Major  
Traffic Division

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

650 SOUTH KING STREET, 3RD FLOOR  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
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KIRK CALDWELL  
MAYOR



WES FRYSZTACKI  
DIRECTOR

JON Y. NOUCHI  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

TE 719744  
BK18.025

February 21, 2018

The Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto  
and Members of the Committee on Judiciary  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 419  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Nishimoto and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill No. 1632 Relating to Bicycles

The City and County of Honolulu supports the intent of House Bill No. 1632, which requires bicyclists to ride in a bike lane even in areas where riding on the sidewalk is legal. We believe this bill is unnecessary as the current statute is sufficient.

Some bicyclists are able to travel at the speed of traffic and the law, HRS 291C-145, is currently flexible to allow for them to ride in the travel lane. As long as they are not impeding traffic there is no need to change the law.

Regarding the proposed changes to HRS 291C-148, the intent is to keep bicyclists off sidewalks wherever there is a bike lane. While we prefer to separate bicyclists and pedestrians, we do not recommend that young children and novice bicyclists ride in the roadway. A bicyclist should be able to ride on the sidewalk, if it is not in a business district.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wes Frysztacki".

Wes Frysztacki  
Director

**HB-1632**

Submitted on: 2/20/2018 8:34:50 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/22/2018 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
John Morris	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

My name is John Morris and I am submitting testimony in opposition to house Bill 1632. I have been commuting by bicycle in Honolulu for more than 30 years. The last 27 years I have commuted from Kaimuki to downtown. Prior to that I commuted from Manoa to downtown.

The changes that HB 1632 proposes to make to the law create dangerous and impractical riding conditions. The changes suggest that those supporting the changes have never: 1) ridden a bicycle in rush-hour or 2) experienced the problematic design of some of the bikeways in Honolulu.

A simple example is the bike lane that begins at University Avenue and runs towards town on the right of Beretania Street. If a cyclist is forced to ride in that lane after crossing University, when the cyclist reaches Isenberg Street – only one block away – the cyclist must then cross three lanes of rush-hour traffic to turn left onto Isenberg to either access Young Street or the King Street bikeway and continue on into town. In contrast, if the cyclist stays on the left side of Beretania where it crosses University, the cyclist has a simple left turn into Isenberg.

Another example, the bike lane that runs down Beretania Street, past the Board of Water Supply, simply ends when it reaches Punchbowl Street. At that point, a long line of traffic is usually trying to turn right to go mauka up Punchbowl Street. The cyclist will have to cross through that line of traffic to continue on. If the cyclist wishes to turn makai down Punchbowl Street, the cyclist must cross five lanes of rush-hour traffic, a death-defying proposition, to make the left turn on Punchbowl.

In contrast, if the cyclist comes along Young Street, turns left onto Beretania Street at Thomas Square and continues on the left of Beretania Street down to Punchbowl – a relatively traffic free experience, even in rush-hour – the cyclist has a simple left turn to make when the cyclist reaches Punchbowl.

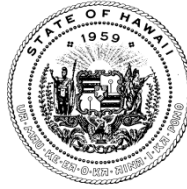
In both the situations (and there are many more examples!), common sense and safety indicate that the cyclist should not be in the designated bike lane. Nevertheless, when this bill passes the cyclist will be penalised for failing to ride in a way that is more dangerous than it needs to be.

Like car drivers, not all cyclists are perfect. Nevertheless, like car drivers, cyclists should be able to make their own decisions on how best to ride and not have arbitrary and impractical rules imposed on them, especially when those rules create more danger for the cyclists.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

John Morris

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



**LATE**

**Testimony by:**  
JADE T. BUTAY  
INTERIM DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors  
ROY CATALANI  
ROSS M. HIGASHI  
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN  
DARRELL T. YOUNG

IN REPLY REFER TO:

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

February 22, 2018  
2:00 p.m.  
State Capitol, Room 325

**H.B. 1632**  
**RELATING TO BICYCLES**

House Committee on Judiciary

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The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** H.B. 1632 relating to bicycles.

The DOT recognizes the need to protect bicyclists and pedestrians on all public roadways and sidewalks. This bill clarifies the responsibilities of the bicyclist when a bicycle lane is provided for use and further clarifies the exceptions on when the bicyclist may move out of the bicycle lane.

We believe that this bill will enhance the safety of both bicyclists and pedestrians.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

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bicycle@hbl.org

**LATE**

**Testimony Opposing HB1632**

Aloha Judiciary Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and esteemed members of the Committee on Judiciary:

Hawaii Bicycling League **opposes HB1632**, which would remove the provision that allows bicyclists to ride outside of the bike lane when moving the normal speed of traffic.

Hawaii Bicycling League strongly supports the development of a network of bike lanes to make cycling safer and more accessible as a transportation and recreation option to people of all ages. In our bicycle education work, we educate people to get familiar with the network of bikeways and to use them. We support cyclists using bike lanes in our words and actions. However, we do not support removing the provision that allows bicyclists to ride outside of a bike lane when moving the normal speed of traffic. There are a minority of cyclists that can and do ride at 25mph or more. Cyclists traveling at such speeds are in many cases safer when riding in the travel lane mixed with traffic where they: 1. are less likely to overtake a motorist on the right at high speed which increase risks of collisions with turning vehicles; and 2. are less likely to have conflicts with slower moving cyclists (most cyclists move at 10-15mph).

Thank you very much for considering the comments of Hawaii Bicycling League. If you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please contact Chad Taniguchi (808-735-5756, [chad@hbl.org](mailto:chad@hbl.org)) or Daniel Alexander (808-275-6717, [Daniel@hbl.org](mailto:Daniel@hbl.org)).

Ride and Drive Aloha,

Chad Taniguchi  
Executive Director  
Hawaii Bicycling League

Daniel Alexander  
Advocacy & Planning Director  
Hawaii Bicycling League