

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



Testimony by:

JADE T. BUTAY
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

March 14, 2018
1:15 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 225

H.B. 2215, H.D. 1
RELATING TO BICYCLES

Senate Committee on Transportation and Energy

The Department of Transportation **supports** H.B. 2215, H.D. 1 that will require the driver of a vehicle overtaking a bicyclist to allow at least a three-foot separation between the driver's vehicle and the bicyclist.

According to Hawaii State data, there were a total of twelve bicycle related fatalities from 2014 to 2017. Five out of the twelve fatalities involved a motorist overtaking a bicyclist.

This bill can help encourage drivers to provide a safe distance between their vehicle and the bicycle rider.

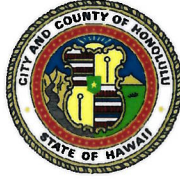
Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

650 SOUTH KING STREET, 3RD FLOOR
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

Phone: (808) 768-8305 • Fax: (808) 768-4730 • Internet: www.honolulu.gov

KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR



WES FRYSZTACKI
DIRECTOR

JON Y. NOUCHI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

TE 721093
BK18.031

March 14, 2018

The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye
and Members of the Committee on
Transportation and Energy
415 South Beretania Street, Room 210
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Inouye and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: House Bill No. 2215, HD1 Relating to Bicycles

The Department of Transportation Services supports House Bill No. 2215, HD1, which is consistent with our efforts to promote bicycling as a valid and safe mode of transportation. While we have been vigorously implementing bicycle facilities on Oahu, ultimately most bicyclists will find themselves sharing the travel lane with motor vehicles at some point. This bill will raise awareness with motorists and quantify what a safe passing distance is.

Currently, 30 states and the District of Columbia have safe passing laws in place. Our City policy with TheBus is for drivers to give 7 to 8 feet clearance when passing a bicyclist because of the large size vehicles. This bill, which requires 3 feet of passing distance, is a reasonable requirement for motorists which will ultimately make Hawaii a more bicycle-friendly place.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Fryszta".

Wes Fryszta
Director



Date: March 12, 2018

To: The Honorable Lorraine Inouye, Chair
The Honorable Will Espero, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation and Energy

From: Trish La Chica, Policy and Advocacy Director, Hawai'i Public Health Institute

Re: **Support for HB2215 HD1, Relating to Bicycles**

Hrg: March 14, 2018 at 1:15 PM at Capitol Room 225

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in **support of HB2215 HD1**, which requires a three-foot minimum safe passing distance when a motorist passes and overtakes a bicyclist.

The Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI) supports and promotes policy efforts to create a healthy Hawai'i. HIPHI weaves silos into working relationships as an effective network, ensuring that we come together across sectors to advance collaboration and innovation in public health and work towards making Hawai'i the healthiest place to live.

The passage of HB2215 HD1 will make our roads safer for all users by codifying a clear minimum safe passing distance, consistent with national standards and the Hawaii Driver's Manual. This will increase drivers' awareness and practice of safe passing distance, helping to prevent further injuries and deaths on our roads.

The three feet minimum safe passing distance is widely accepted as a "best practice" and is already law in 26 states and Washington, D.C. Organizations, city agencies, and the police departments in these states have been working together to educate the public and ensure that their Safe Passing laws make their streets safer.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony, and we respectfully ask you to pass HB2215 HD1 out of committee.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trish'.

Trish La Chica
Policy and Advocacy Director

ADDRESS

3442 Waialae Ave., Suite 1
Honolulu, HI 96816

PHONE

808-735-5756



FAX

808-735-7989

EMAIL

bicycle@hbl.org

March 12, 2018

Testimony Strongly Supporting HB2215

Aloha Transportation and Energy Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Espero, and esteemed members of the Committee on Transportation and Energy,

Hawaii Bicycling League **strongly supports HB2215**, which would clarify in the existing Safe Passing law, Hawaii Revised Statutes 291C-43, that 3 feet is the minimum safe distance that a motorist should provide when overtaking a bicyclist.

HB2215 will make our roads safer for cycling and for all road users by codifying a clear minimum safe passing distance, consistent with national standards and the Hawaii Driver’s Manual. This codification of the recognized minimum safe passing distance will increase driver awareness of safe passing and result in safer passing practices. This is crucial to help prevent more injuries and deaths on our roads.

- 30 cyclists have been killed on Hawaii’s roads in 10 years (2005-2014)
- 44% of all cyclist fatalities result from being struck from behind or sideswiped (national data)
- 12% of cyclists “felt threatened for personal safety” the last time they rode and “someone drove too close to me” was the primary reason (national data)

Safely sharing our roads requires clear and agreed upon ground rules. No driver wants to hit a cyclist, and some just don’t understand what a safe passing distance is. The Safe Passing 3 Foot bill will make it clear to all drivers that 3 feet is the minimum safe passing distance.

Twenty-six states and Washington DC have amended their Safe Passing laws to include 3 feet as the minimum distance when overtaking a bicyclist. Police, cities, states, and nonprofits in these states are using signage, enforcement, and awareness campaigns to make sure their Safe Passing laws make their streets safer.

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) or Daniel Alexander (808-275-6717, Daniel@hbl.org).

Ride and Drive Aloha,

Chad Taniguchi
Executive Director
Hawaii Bicycling League

Daniel Alexander
Advocacy & Planning Director
Hawaii Bicycling League

HB-2215-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 9:08:18 PM

Testimony for TRE on 3/14/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Greenburg	Testifying for Hawaii bicycle league	Support	No

Comments:

I've lived in Kaneohe for three years and cycle 2000-3000 miles annually. The cycling conditions here are among the most dangerous of any place I have cycled in the USA. Cyclists should feel safe using municipal roads for transportation and/or exercise, but most who live here do not feel safe. I know many cyclists who simply won't ride here out of fear of collisions with cars. Many drivers see no need to shift over at all while passing cyclists even when there is no shoulder. I have been passed at what I consider an unsafe distance on almost every ride. At times I have hailed down police cars and even called 911 after egregious near death confrontations from drivers passing within inches of me. Please protect me and my family who are all cyclists by making close passage illegal.



Sustainable Transportation Coalition of Hawai'i

A U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY CLEAN CITIES COALITION

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND ENERGY

Mar. 14, 2018, 1:15 P.M.

Room 225

(Testimony is 1 page long)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB2215 HD1

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Espero, and esteemed members of the Committee on Transportation and Energy:

The Sustainable Transportation Coalition of Hawai'i (STCH) **strongly supports HB2215**, which would amend Hawaii Revised Statutes 291C-43 to include 3 feet as the minimum safe distance that a motorist must provide when overtaking a bicyclist.

STCH is a coalition of stakeholders with the mission of serving as an advocate and education resource to “advance the energy, economic, and environmental security of Hawai'i by promoting and supporting the adoption of practices that improve mobility, reduce travel demand, increase the utilization of energy efficient modes of travel, and reduce the use of petroleum for transportation”.

Bicycling is a key component to sustainable transportation in Hawai'i. Bicycling is an ideal transportation mode in terms of sustainability; it requires no petroleum, it is very low-cost relative to other modes, it requires minimal space for parking, and it integrates well with transit.

Unfortunately, U.S. Census data for 2016 show that only 1.0% of Hawai'i commuters use a bike as their primary mode. While the reasons more people don't bicycle are many, concern about safety is a major factor. A report by the U.S. Department of Transportation National Highway Traffic Safety Administration found that 12% of cyclists “felt threatened for personal safety” the last time they bicycled and “someone drove too close to me” was the primary reason. A comprehensive analysis of bike fatalities nationally over a one-year period by the League of American Bicyclists found that 44% of all cyclist fatalities resulted from being struck from behind or being sideswiped.

HB2215 offers an enforcement and driver education tool to address safety risks associated with motorists overtaking bicyclists. While bikeway infrastructure is still needed, this law provides an avenue to address bike safety.

Thank you very much for considering our comments.

HB-2215-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 6:40:53 PM

Testimony for TRE on 3/14/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kevin Butterbaugh	Testifying for Kailua Urban Design Task Force	Support	No

Comments:

The Kailua Urban Design Task Force, an all volunteer, 301(c) non-profit that advocates for good urban deign, including safe mobility, STRONGLY supports this bill.



SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND ENERGY

March 14, 2018, 1:15 P.M.

Room 225

(Testimony is 1 pages long)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2215 HD1

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Espero, and members of the Committee:

Blue Planet Foundation strongly supports House Bill (HB) 2215 HD1, which would amend Hawai'i Revised Statutes section 291C-43 to include 3 feet as the minimum safe distance that a motorist must provide when overtaking a bicyclist.

Blue Planet Foundation is a local, mission-driven nonprofit committed to clearing the path for 100% clean energy in Hawai'i and believes that bicycling needs to be a key component of sustainable transportation in Hawai'i. Bicycling is an ideal transportation mode in terms of sustainability; it requires no petroleum, it is very low-cost relative to other modes, it requires minimal space for parking, and it integrates well with transit.

Unfortunately, U.S. Census data for 2016 show that only 1.0% of Hawai'i commuters use a bike as their primary mode. While the reasons more people don't bicycle are many, concern about safety is a major factor. A report by the U.S. Department of Transportation National Highway Traffic Safety Administration found that 12% of cyclists "felt threatened for personal safety" the last time they bicycled, and "someone drove too close to me" was the primary reason. A comprehensive analysis of bike fatalities nationally over a one-year period by the League of American Bicyclists found that 44% of all cyclist fatalities resulted from being struck from behind or being sideswiped.

HB 2215 HD1 offers an enforcement and driver education tool to address safety risks associated with motorists overtaking bicyclists. While bikeway infrastructure is still needed, this law provides an avenue to address bike safety. We respectfully request that the Committee forward this bill, amended to take effect upon arrival.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Peoples Advocacy For Trails Hawai'i

PO Box 62, Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96745
808 -326-7284 www.pathhawaii.org

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Mission

To safely connect
the people and
places on Hawaii
Island with pathways
and bikeways.

Serving
the Island of Hawai'i
since 1986

March 12, 2018

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB2215, RELATING TO BICYCLES

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Espero and esteemed members of the Committee on Transportation and Energy:

The Board and the members of Peoples Advocacy for Trails Hawaii (PATH) strongly support HB2215. This bill will clarify in the existing Safe Passing law, Hawaii Revised Statutes 291C-43, that 3 feet is the minimum safe distance that a motorist should provide when overtaking a bicyclist.

The passage of HB2215 will make our roads safer for cycling and for all road users by codifying a clear minimum safe passing distance, consistent with national standards and the Hawaii Driver's Manual.

This codification of the recognized minimum safe passing distance will increase driver awareness of safe passing and result in safer passing practices. This is crucial to help prevent further injuries and deaths on our roads.

In order to share our roads safely, all users must adhere to clear and agreed upon rules of the road. This bill will go far in clarifying one of those rules by establishing a minimum safe passing distance.

Sadly, 30 cyclists have been killed on Hawaii's roads in 10 years (2005-2014). Let's work together to bring this number down to zero.

Twenty-six states and Washington DC have amended their Safe Passing laws to include 3 feet as the minimum distance when overtaking a bicyclist. Police, cities, states, and nonprofits in these states are using signage, enforcement, and awareness campaigns to make sure their Safe Passing laws make their streets safer. Let's bring this accepted "best practice" into law and make our roads safer.

Thank you very much for considering this testimony from PATH . If you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please contact me at 808-561-9212, or tinaclothier@pathhawaii.org.

Tina Clothier
Executive Director

HB-2215-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 9:13:33 AM

Testimony for TRE on 3/14/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Toni Romp-Friesen	Testifying for P.A.T.H.	Support	No

Comments:

I am strongly in favor of the 3 foot minumum passing distance when passing bicycles, as I believe it would make riding on Hawaii island, and the whole state, safer for cyclists. As it is, it is not unusual for cars and trucks to pass with only inches to spare, and this is terrifying for a cyclist. Thank you for listening!

aloha, Toni Friesen

HB-2215-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 5:58:18 PM

Testimony for TRE on 3/14/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James H. Johnson	Testifying for PATH	Support	No

Comments:

The Big Island is home of the IRONMAN World Championship each October. Prior to that, hundreds of participants come here to train for the event. Our highways do not have separate bike lanes like some streets in Honolulu, so sharing the road is a necessity. Please make it safe to ride a bicycle by passing this bill to ensure THREE FEET of space for safety.

Mahalo

Jim Johnson, a 14 year volunteer at IRONMAN.

HB-2215-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 8:12:41 PM

Testimony for TRE on 3/14/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tommy Noyes	Testifying for Kauai Path, Inc.	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Please approve this bill. People who ride bicycles deserve this modest degree of legal protection. Without this legal guidance, motorists may not exercise adequate concern for the safety of others on the road.

This is a basic safety measure that has been recognized as enforceable by police officers.

Mahalo for your attention.

Best regards,

Tommy A. Noyes, Executive Director, Kauai Path, Inc.

HB-2215-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 6:34:44 PM

Testimony for TRE on 3/14/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thomas Christy	Testifying for Kauai Path	Support	No

Comments:

This bill will help to reduce Vehicle/Bicycle collisions. It will reduce injuries and save lives.

What could be more important than that.

Tom Christy

Kauai Path

March 13, 2018

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB2215, RELATING TO BICYCLES

Aloha, Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Espero and members of the Senate Committee on Transportation and Energy:

The Board of Directors and the members of the Hawai'i Cycling Club strongly support the passage of HB2215. This bill would clarify in the existing Safe Passing law, HRS 291C-43, that 3 feet is the minimum safe distance that a motorist should provide when overtaking a bicyclist.

The codification of a clear minimum safe passing distance, consistent with national standards and the Hawai'i Driver's Manual, will make our roads safer for cyclists and all road users.

Let's join the twenty-six states and Washington, D.C., that have already amended their Safe Passing laws to include 3 feet as the minimum required distance when overtaking a bicyclist. By making this "best practice" the law, we will make our roads safer for everyone and help prevent cyclist fatalities.

Thank you very much for considering this testimony from the Hawai'i Cycling Club. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (808) 937-7380 or hawaiicyclingclub@gmail.com.

Sincerely,
Pamela L. Harlow
President, Hawai'i Cycling Club

HB-2215-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 11:50:48 AM

Testimony for TRE on 3/14/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2215-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 9:28:55 PM

Testimony for TRE on 3/14/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Angie Miyashiro	Testifying for HDOE, HSTA	Support	No

Comments:

we need safe passing for safer roads and bicyclists which ar saving the energy of the planet and becoming fitter and healthier at the same time.

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Kapiolani Medical Center
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Director, Hawaii Initiative for Childhood Obesity
Research & Education
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John A. Burns School of Medicine

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President
Diagnostic Laboratory Services, Inc.

LJ Duenas
Hawaii Director
American Diabetes Association

March 13, 2018

Sen. Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
Sen. Will Espero, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Transportation and Energy
Hawaii State Capitol

RE: Testimony In Support of HB2215 HD1

The American Diabetes Association (Association) supports legislative bills intended to promote type 2 diabetes prevention and persuade strategies to improve health outcomes. In this case, promoting bicycling as part of an active lifestyle; we ask for your support through HB2215 HD1 to clarify on Hawaii Revised Statutes 291C-43 that 3 feet is the minimum safe distance that a motorist should provide when overtaking a bicyclists.

HB2215 HD1 will make our roads safer for cycling and for all road users by codifying a clear minimum safe passing distance, consistent with national standards and the Hawaii Driver's Manual. This codification of the recognized minimum safe passing distance will increase driver awareness of safe passing and result in safer passing practices. This is crucial to help prevent more injuries and deaths on our roads.

Twenty-six states and Washington DC have amended their Safe Passing laws to include 3 feet as the minimum distance when overtaking a bicyclist. Police, cities, states, and nonprofits in these states are using signage, enforcement, and awareness campaigns to make sure their Safe Passing laws make their streets safer.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please reach out to me by email at lduenas@diabetes.org.

Warmest aloha,



LJ Duenas, Hawaii Director
American Diabetes Association



21 people
are diagnosed with
diabetes every day
in Hawaii

HB-2215-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 5:36:44 PM

Testimony for TRE on 3/14/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melanie Killam	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this. This is important to protect bicyclists as well as motorists.

HB-2215-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 5:14:30 PM

Testimony for TRE on 3/14/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeffrey Gaskell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please make the 3 foot passing distance the law.

HB-2215-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 5:11:40 PM

Testimony for TRE on 3/14/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
GORAN RAD	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a bicycle rider and use Kauai roads for bike transportation.

Please support this bill as it will have an impact on the safety of my ability to ride in confidence that drivers will be aware and more careful because of this law that will keep a lawful distance between car and bike. Thank you!

HB-2215-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 4:58:19 PM

Testimony for TRE on 3/14/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anthony Chang	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha Transportation Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Espero, and esteemed members of the Committee on Transportation and Energy.

As a lifelong resident of Hawaii, I feel better infrastructure and laws for bicycling, besides making bicyclists safer, would encourage more people to bicycle, helping reduce traffic by having fewer cars on the road, reducing traffic, carbon emissions, and promoting a healthier lifestyle in Hawaii. Also it would reduce pedestrian fatalities as making it easier to bicycle would encourage people to bicycle instead of using their cars, thus lowering the amount of cars on the road and the probability of auto related fatalities.

In addition to my own testimony, I wish to include Hawaii Bicycling League's testimony, all of which I agree with. From Hawaii Bicycling League:
"[I] strongly supports HB2215, which would clarify in the existing Safe Passing law, Hawaii Revised Statutes 291C-43, that 3 feet is the minimum safe distance that a motorist should provide when overtaking a bicyclist.

HB2215 will make our roads safer for cycling and for all road users by codifying a clear minimum safe passing distance, consistent with national standards and the Hawaii Driver's Manual. This codification of the recognized minimum safe passing distance will increase driver awareness of safe passing and result in safer passing practices.

This is crucial to help prevent more injuries and deaths on our roads.

- 30 cyclists have been killed on Hawaii's roads in 10 years (2005-2014)
- 44% of all cyclist fatalities result from being struck from behind or sideswiped (national data)
- 12% of cyclists "felt threatened for personal safety" the last time they rode and "someonedrove too close to me" was the primary reason (national data)

Safely sharing our roads requires clear and agreed upon ground rules. No driver wants to hit a cyclist, and some just don't understand what a safe passing distance is. The Safe Passing 3 Foot bill will make it clear to all drivers that 3 feet is the minimum safe passing distance.

Twenty-six states and Washington DC have amended their Safe Passing laws to include 3 feet as the minimum distance when overtaking a bicyclist. Police, cities, states, and nonprofits in these states are using signage, enforcement, and awareness campaigns to make sure their Safe Passing laws make their streets safer."

Mahalo nui loa for your time. Let me know if you have any questions.

Anthony Chang
1245 Maunakea St. #2310
Honolulu, HI 96817
(808) 536-0783

HB-2215-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 4:06:03 PM

Testimony for TRE on 3/14/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lori McCarney	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Thank you for considering this measure to help me be safer when I'm riding a bike. Many drivers don't realize how close they come to hitting me when they pass. I bike to get to work, to meetings for pleasure and for exercise. I like biking to improve my health, to help contribute to our state's clean energy goals and just because this is a beautiful place to be outside. Passing this bill will increase awareness and help to save lives--maybe even mine. I hope you will support it.

Lori McCarney

HB-2215-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 6:10:39 PM

Testimony for TRE on 3/14/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Peter Kirk	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2215-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 6:38:52 PM

Testimony for TRE on 3/14/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jonathan Hayes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Attn:

[COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND ENERGY](#)

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair

Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair

This bill comes at a particularly apt time. This past weekend (2/3/2018) I was riding my bicycle on Alii Drive in Kailua Kona, I was ***IN THE SHOULDER***. A driver wasn't paying attention, instead of looking for all road users the driver pulled off the road into the shoulder and "cut me off", I went over my handle bars, crashed and landed ***ON MY HEAD***. I ended up in ER, thankfully I was wearing a helmet, and I survived. Please enact this law to make it safer for cyclists and to make drivers more aware. According to the officer if there was no damage sustained to the car, then it is not considered a traffic incident in Hawaii, as I understand it, that means there is ***no legal consequences*** for the driver, ***even though he nearly killed me***.

On another occasion I had a driver threaten to kill me because I was riding in the road, at the posted speed limit (residential street 25 mph going downhill) , keeping with the flow (e.g. not impeding traffic), keeping at a safe distance from the next vehicle, only to be unsafely passed, to then arrive at a traffic light and be verbally threatened with my life.

I have reported both of these events to the Hawaii County police in the last 12 months.

Additionally, when I ride, I ride with aloha, I share the road, I pull over to let traffic pass, yet I still have had drivers intentionally, drive close to "buzz" me, I have had drivers drive in the rumble strips on the sides of Queen Ka'ahumanu Hwy to intimidate me.

Too often when I am riding at the posted speed limit, with the flow of traffic, (e.g. keeping up with cars, not hindering flow), and there are no shoulders or bike lanes, I have had people pass me dangerously, just to prove a point, or because they are too impatient.

With the population growth in Hawaii, especially in Kailua Kona, we desperately need safer roads, ***we need this law.***

HB-2215-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 6:45:53 PM

Testimony for TRE on 3/14/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Flanagan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. Many, many Hawaii roads do not have paved shoulders, let alone bike lanes. The state should encourage bicycling both to improve public health and to reduce traffic congestion and over-dependence on automobiles. The single greatest obstacle to building bicycle ridership is the perception that cycling is unsafe in Hawaii. This bill will combat that perception and make bicycling safer.

HB-2215-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 6:46:01 PM

Testimony for TRE on 3/14/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Greg Wolf	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support the passing of this bill.

HB-2215-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 7:01:07 PM

Testimony for TRE on 3/14/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Morgan Gerdel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bicycle safety bill. I have personally experienced the danger of cars driving too close to my bike, and would like to see the safety of all cyclists improved.

HB-2215-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 7:27:45 PM

Testimony for TRE on 3/14/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dorothy M Sunio	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill. Please, please pass for the safety of all

Dorothy Sunio

HB-2215-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 7:30:20 PM

Testimony for TRE on 3/14/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carl Nethercutt	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

I strongly agree with this bill.

HB-2215-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 7:46:16 PM

Testimony for TRE on 3/14/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ajeet	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bicycle safety plan. Thank you for protecting us and beautifying our land.

HB-2215-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 8:03:26 PM

Testimony for TRE on 3/14/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Bucher	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a long-time daily commuter in various locations across the US, the 3-foot passing rule is a must-have item for cyclist safety! Unbeknownst to most drivers who do not regularly cycle, passing too close to a bicycle induces numerous risks. There's the "suction" that occurs when a vehicle zips by and pulls the cyclist along, often pulling them towards the very vehicle that is passing them. Then there's the fact that road debris and surface conditions, while of minor consequence to a car, can be very consequential to a cyclist. A small limb to a cyclist is like a full curb to a car. So, cyclists need some space to account for those hazards (especially here in HI) and the room and freedom to deviate from a strictly straight line. Another good thing about the 3-foot rule is it will encourage more people to cycle. Many people do not cycle regularly because they don't feel safe. If they are given a wider berth, they will feel safer and will be more likely to bike. Finally, judging a safe passing distance is not always easy for drivers and many are just too close, not realizing how close they are, or how their mirrors are just about the height of handlebars! Having the 3-foot passing law will help drivers give that wider passing room. Please pass this fine law - I and my children will be eternally thankful for the added safety and courteous behavior of all!

HB-2215-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 8:03:34 PM

Testimony for TRE on 3/14/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Weber	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Committee on Transportation and Energy

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair

Senator Will Estero, Vice Chair

I am a 61 year-old cyclist living in Laie. I ride approx. 6500 miles per year, mostly along Kam. Hwy. between Kaneohe and Haleiwa. I strongly support the 3-foot rule, because I am hoping that it will raise awareness for cyclists and therefore will make cycling safer for me and all cyclists in Hawaii.

I have had many bad experiences with vehicles while cycling that would have been prevented if the drivers were following the 3-foot rule. On April 25, 2015 I was sideswiped by a car in Sunset Beach. I was knocked unconscious, had a broken rib, and was bruised and scratched up very badly. I have also had many - too many - close calls where drivers simply were not paying attention and pulled out in front of me, turned in front of me, nearly sideswiped me, etc. Please understand that I ride with lights on, even during the day, and I wear very bright colored clothing, in order to be seen.

I realize that passing this law will not guarantee my safety and that of my fellow cyclists, but it will surely help, and that means a lot to me. Hawaii is a wonderful place to cycle, and the 3-foot rule will only make it better. Please vote for this rule.

Michael Weber

Laie, Hi

HB-2215-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 8:58:49 PM

Testimony for TRE on 3/14/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
LeAnn Puckett	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this.

HB-2215-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 9:18:33 PM

Testimony for TRE on 3/14/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrew Dunne	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support the Safe Passing Bill!

Thank you for making Hawaii's roads safer and increasaing the Aloha,

Andrew Dunne

HB-2215-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 9:40:06 PM

Testimony for TRE on 3/14/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott Grant	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. We need to make our home a safer place for pedestrians and bikers. Three of my close friends have been hit by cars riding their bicycles and seriously injured. We need to raise public awareness to drive safely and with aloha, and we need penalties against those who drive in ways that endanger the most vulnerable.

HB-2215-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 9:43:52 PM

Testimony for TRE on 3/14/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Julie Gilliland	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am an avid cyclist on Maui. I support this bill, which will guarantee safe passage of cyclist by motor vehicles. Currently, buses, trucks, vans and cars pass me many times within less than a foot in conditions they would never pass a motor vehicle. Please pass this legislation to make our roads safer. Consumer education and awareness is key. We need this bill to make our roads safe.

julie Houck Gilliland

Kula, HI

HB-2215-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 11:01:36 PM

Testimony for TRE on 3/14/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James McCay	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strong supported. Please protect cyclists keeping fit, reducing healthcare, and burning fat not oil!

HB-2215-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 5:45:08 AM

Testimony for TRE on 3/14/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dabney Gough	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bicycle safety bill!

HB-2215-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 6:26:58 AM

Testimony for TRE on 3/14/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lucia Kaplan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, I support HB2215 because my husband and many of our friends are avid cyclists. They promote safe cycling in the community and my husband teaches 4th graders about bicycle safety. While they practice bicycle safety, they are often subjected to dangerous and unsafe riding conditions. It is imperative to protect cyclists by maintaining a safe distance between them and vehicles using the same roadway. Mahalo. Lucia Kaplan, Kailua Kona, HI

HB-2215-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 7:42:23 AM

Testimony for TRE on 3/14/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Doug McDowell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HB2215. Since I wrote the first testimony below, I was riding my bike on a shoulder down hill that reduced to 8 inches over a bridge. After checking the traffic behind me And noticed the next semi was over 300 yards away, I proceed over the bridge. I assumed the truck driver would pull back a little before proceeding with him and I on the bridge. He did not. I found myself in a deadly position. My hope is that this Bill will support and encourage safer roads.

We must support the safety of bicyclist in a state that is committed to health. We have identified that healthcare costs will go Done if people led healthier lives. Helping people ride theirs bikes more safely will encourage the people of our state to exercise and therefore reduce healthcare cost. This bill sets our priority on health people and protecting their safety. We want to be an island that can be accessed by riding our bikes through paradise. Let's protect people access to the island by bike. Finally, by supporting this bill we are setting our priority on alternative modes on transportation. By encouraging and protecting bicyclist, more of our community will be willing to bike to work, which will cut our dependence and use of fuel and pollutant. I ask for your support to protect both the bicyclist and motorist by setting reasonable distances for all's safety. Aloha, Doug McDowell Teacher at Honoka'a High School

HB-2215-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 8:07:01 AM

Testimony for TRE on 3/14/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daphne Manago	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in strong support of HB2215 for the Safe Passing 3 Feet bill. We need motorists to be more aware of cyclists on the roads. This will reduce careless and reckless driving behaviors and serve as a reminder that cyclists have a right to be on the roads.

HB-2215-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 8:24:28 AM

Testimony for TRE on 3/14/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dr. Paul Ryan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of HB2215. I am senior staff at UH Mañ,noa, and have been a cyclist on O'ahu since 2003. Three years ago I moved into town from Waimanalo so I could commute by bike instead of car. I now commute to work by bike every day. I've been a strong supporter of alternative modes of transportation, both for health and environmental reasons.

On my daily 3-mile commute to UHM, I witness a lot of dangerous behavior committed by automobile drivers. Most drivers are conscientious, which I appreciate. But a small percentage, for example: drive 40MPH on 25MPH streets; drive in the bike lane, or weave in and out of the bike lane; blatantly run red lights; pass a cyclist with inches to spare.

Having a codified law protecting cyclist rights and safety is an important component to keeping our streets functional for all types of users. Within my network of friends and colleagues, I know of at least 3 people who have been hit by a vehicle while on a bike and riding legally. The most egregious of these collisions were committed by vehicles overtaking cyclists riding in sharrows (shared use lanes) and "buzzing" the cyclist to threaten them off the roads and establish car superiority. This type of behavior threatens our sense of aloha and community, and a law establishing a 3-foot passing rule will help law enforcement discourage this type of behavior.

Thank you for your time in listening to my voice. Let's spread aloha and make our island safer for those that are more vulnerable!

Sincerely,
Dr. Paul Ryan

HB-2215-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 8:32:54 AM

Testimony for TRE on 3/14/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patrick Karjala	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please help to improve road safety for cyclists, and pass this bill to increase motorist awareness of a 3 ft passing zone!

-Patrick Karjala
Honolulu, HI

HB-2215-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 8:50:38 AM

Testimony for TRE on 3/14/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laura Owen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill for the awareness of bicycles it will help raise among drivers. Among the official vehicles that I've been hit or clipped by while riding legally in the King Street bike lane are a USPS truck, a street sweeper, and a police officer (he cursed at me and drove away). This is in addition to the many other drivers who are unaware of bikes while they drive. Greater awareness of bicycles will lead to better safety overall.

HB-2215-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 8:54:14 AM

Testimony for TRE on 3/14/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jojo A. Torres III	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly agree and believe the need for a 3 feet distance in passing / overtaking a bicycle. I personally had an experience being hit by a vehicle side mirror even when i was riding in a bicycle lane without a buffer. The risk is more on two lane roads without bicycle lanes. In the absence of bicycle lanes, cars should slow down when there is an incoming vehicle on the other lane and overtake bicycles with a minimum of 3 feet distance when it is clear. The wind gust of passing cars is like a vacuum that can suction a rider and cause an accident.

Passing this law will encourage more people to ride bicycles on the road, leave the sidewalks for pedestrains, saves you money (fuel /car payments) and better health for everyone.

Thank you and hoping that our representatives will also try to ride bikes on the road and see for themselves the need for a 3 feet distance from passing vehicles. Stay safe.

HB-2215-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 9:45:46 AM

Testimony for TRE on 3/14/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Andrews	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a long time Maui road cyclist I strongly support this safe distance passing bill. Sharing the road with cars, which is our right, can be scary. This bill would help.

HB-2215-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 10:34:43 AM

Testimony for TRE on 3/14/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michelle K.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bicycle safety bill. We need equality outdoors and passing this bill will make our streets slightly safer for people who choose to bike on a daily basis.
Thank you!

HB-2215-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 11:01:49 AM

Testimony for TRE on 3/14/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Padraic Gallagher	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am an avid cyclist and I have had way too many close calls, including public transportation almost running me off the road. You have a responsibility as lawmakers to take care of your constituents. This law convinces no one and will save lives. Just this weekend a cyclist was hit on Kauai. The more you make people aware of cyclists on the road the safer we will be. I don't know a single cyclist that is an active voter and voice for our well-being. Save lives vote yes on this bill.

HB-2215-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 11:45:51 AM

Testimony for TRE on 3/14/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Malia	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HB2215, which would clarify in the existing Safe Passing law, Hawaii Revised Statutes 291C-43, that 3 feet is the minimum safe distance that a motorist should provide when overtaking a bicyclist. HB2215 will make our roads safer for cycling and for all road users by codifying a clear minimum safe passing distance, consistent with national standards and the Hawaii Driver's Manual. This codification of the recognized minimum safe passing distance will increase driver awareness of safe passing and result in safer passing practices. This is crucial to help prevent more injuries and deaths on our roads. Mahalo nui loa!

HB-2215-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 11:48:45 AM

Testimony for TRE on 3/14/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Goody	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is an very important measure to improve safety on our roadways. It deserves becoming law.

HB-2215-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 12:35:46 PM

Testimony for TRE on 3/14/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nima Daivari	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am outraged that I have to comment again. Stop wasting my tax money by going through the same process over and over again. This law is necessary because the law as it is currently written is unclear. We do not need to go around and around. Please pass this law.

HB-2215-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 1:05:19 PM

Testimony for TRE on 3/14/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Landon Tom	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

I strongly support this bill and will be there to give oral testimony in support of the bill.

-Landon Tom

HB-2215-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 9:52:13 PM

Testimony for TRE on 3/14/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

For the safety of bicyclists and especially keiki on bikes, please o please pass this bill.

HB-2215-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 1:37:16 PM

Testimony for TRE on 3/14/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Franz Weber	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2215-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 2:00:09 PM

Testimony for TRE on 3/14/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bri Foulke	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this for bicycle safety.

HB-2215-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 2:00:36 PM

Testimony for TRE on 3/14/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joni Heath	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a recreational cyclist who enjoys the climate and roads of the Big Island for extended vacation times, I find HB2215 to be mutually beneficial to motorists and cyclists. We can all enjoy being on the road, a safe distance apart. There is room to do this so everyone gets to where they are heading safely. Let's keep Hawaii a destination for cyclist with safety measures such as HB2215.

Thank You.

Joni Heath

HB-2215-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 4:24:41 PM

Testimony for TRE on 3/14/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrew Grandinetti	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

A safe passing zone is essential for the safety of bicycle riders. Current regulations only state that a driver must allow for a safe distance while passing a cyclist, but this is arbitrary and can lead to confusion on the part of both the driver and cyclist. It also makes it difficult for police officers to enforce the laws pertaining to safe passing practices on the road. A clear cut, well defined passing distance will improve awareness of cyclists on the road and be more conducive to a multi-user environment as mandated by the Complete Streets initiative passed by Hawaii voters.

HB-2215-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 4:30:07 PM

Testimony for TRE on 3/14/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Johnny Sulecki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly supprt with this!!

HB-2215-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 4:59:57 PM

Testimony for TRE on 3/14/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patricia Johnson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this legislation! Now with more cars on the road, we need protection for our vulnerable users. 3 feet is the law in many other states, let us join their lead. Mahalo!

HB-2215-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 8:21:23 PM

Testimony for TRE on 3/14/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
simon radford	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair; Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair; and members of the Senate Committee on Transportation and Energy

As a frequent bicycle rider, for both daily transport (commuting) and for recreation, I strongly support HB2215.

Hawaii is blessed with a pleasant climate conducive to year round bicycle riding. But the cavalier attitude of many automobile drivers to vulnerable road users is frightening. Many times, drivers have passed me at high speed with far too little clearance, seemingly oblivious to the catastrophic consequences of an error. Some years ago, a good friend was struck while riding his bicycle by a hurried driver who failed to leave adequate space. My friend only(!) broke his hip and had to endure prolonged and continuing treatment and rehabilitation. Others are not so lucky. Far too often, the news reports bicycle riders killed or injured by drivers.

By mandating a minimum three foot passing clearance, HB2215 affirms the driver's responsibility to avoid endangering vulnerable road users. This is an important step to making Hawaii's roads safer for all users, automobile drivers, bicycle riders, and pedestrians alike.

Simon Radford
Hilo

HB-2215-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 8:33:25 PM

Testimony for TRE on 3/14/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aleisha Swartz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I **strongly support HB2215** to increase safety for cyclists on Hawaii's roads. I cycle on Hawaii roads regularly and many times I have felt unsafe due to cars passing very closely. Each person who is cycling, whether for transportation or for fitness, reduces the number of cars on the road which has many benefits for residents as well as tourists. Please pass this measure to help make our roads more safe for those travelling by bicycle. Thank you for your consideration.

HB-2215-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 9:14:37 PM

Testimony for TRE on 3/14/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrew Tang	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT this bill

HB-2215-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 1:48:12 AM

Testimony for TRE on 3/14/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dayle K. Turner	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I'm testifying in support of HB2215 HD1.

I'm 59 years old, soon to be 60, and a lifelong resident of Oahu. I'm also an avid bicyclist and ride 4 to 5 times a week (for exercise and recreation). During a typical week, I'll log 100+ miles on island roadways, mostly on Oahu's windward side (I live in Kaneohe).

One ride that I used to do frequently (once a week) but rarely do now (perhaps once every three months) is the route from Kaneohe to Kaaawa, whereby I'll follow Kahekili Hwy then continue northbound on Kamehameha Hwy to Kaaawa, a distance of about 14 miles from my home.

I mention that I rarely do this ride nowadays mostly because of the number of near misses I've experienced from vehicles passing me along the way. Sometimes I wonder if these near misses are intentional acts of intimidation by drivers. I also sometimes wonder if they're a result of distraction. I can't say for sure.

However, what I can say for sure is how traumatizing it is to be buzzed by a vehicle, sometimes a VERY large one, traveling much faster than I am. And when I am traveling on my bike, I take care to ride visibly (I employ flashing lights fore and aft and wear a bright-colored cycling jersey), humbly (I ride on roadway shoulders, whenever available), and predictably (I avoid weaving in and out of traffic and ride in a manner so that drivers have a good idea of my intended path of progress).

If HB2215 passes and becomes a law of the land, I realize that my safety while riding a bike is still not assured. However, passage of the bill will undoubtedly improve the likelihood of my safety as well as the safety of the many other bicycle riders like me.

So again, I stand in strong support of the passage of this bill.

Mahalo nui for your consideration.

Dayle K. Turner of Kaneohe, Oahu.

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR

SUSAN BALLARD
CHIEF

JOHN D. McCARTHY
JONATHAN GREMS
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE BM-GR

March 14, 2018

The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
and Members
Committee on Transportation and Energy
State Senate
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 225
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



Dear Chair Inouye and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill No. 2215, H.D. 1, Relating to Bicycles

I am Benjamin Moszkowicz, Acting Captain of the Traffic Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD supports the passage of House Bill No. 2215, H.D. 1, Relating to Bicycles. In 2017, there were approximately 12,144 reported motor vehicle collisions. Of that, approximately 260 involved bicyclists. This bill would create a buffer zone between a vehicle and a bicyclist, which could potentially reduce the number of collisions between vehicles and bicyclists and make for safer roads.


The HPD strongly supports House Bill No. 2215, H.D. 1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

APPROVED:

Sincerely,


Susan Ballard
Chief of Police


Benjamin Moszkowicz, Acting Captain
Traffic Division

March 13, 2018

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye , Chair, Committee on Transportation and Energy
Senator Will Espero, Vice-Chair, Committee on Transportation and Energy
Honorable Members of the Committee on Transportation and Energy



RE: SUPPORT HB2215 Relating to Bicycles

Chair Inouye, Vice-Chair Espero, Members of the Committee on Transportation and Energy:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of HB2215 that includes bicycles into the three feet passing law. We support this bill because it will make it safer for both cyclists and drivers. It codifies the expectation of allowing 3 feet of space when overtaking a cyclist from the left. No longer is there question, this bill clarifies the standard space for safety. Passage of this bill also creates the opportunity for education and outreach in regard to roadway safety.

At Blue Zone Projects, we support healthy lifestyle habits. Biking is most certainly a healthy and fun way to travel our beautiful islands. More people will be inclined to bike if they feel safer on the road. Safety is achieved through clear laws that are supported by educational outreach. Many cyclists feel unsafe because of car proximity. As the counties work to improve bike plans and implement complete streets, it is necessary to address rider safety as well. When these elements are addressed in unison, education and advocacy become highly effective and relevant.

From 2005-2014 there were 30 cyclists killed on our roadways almost half of those were from being struck from behind or side swiped. Through this bill and through partnered advocacy and education we can work to lower those numbers across the state. Motorists do not want to strike cyclists, nor do cyclists want to get hit. This measure helps to address both of those concerns.

On a personal note, I support this legislation as an avid cyclist and survivor from recently being struck by a vehicle while on my bicycle. What was intended to be a nice Saturday morning ride, resulted in me being struck by a vehicle, knocked unconscious and rushed to Queens trauma center. While I'm lucky to be alive today, the next cyclist hit by a car may not be as lucky. Passing this bill will be a step forward to ensure greater safety for all who utilize our roads.

Again, I sincerely appreciate the Committee taking the time to discuss the merit of this bill.

Regards,

Craig Petty

Craig Petty
Vice President
Blue Zones Project—Hawaii

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Testimony Strongly Supporting HB2215

The Maui Bicycling League, a chapter of the Hawaii Bicycling League, gives its support for the Safe Passing bill **HB2215**, which would clarify in the existing Safe Passing law, Hawaii Revised Statutes 291C-43, that 3 feet is the minimum safe distance that a motorist should provide when overtaking a bicyclist.

HB2215 will make our roads safer for cycling and for all road users by codifying a clear minimum safe passing distance, consistent with national standards and the Hawaii Driver's Manual. This codification of the recognized minimum safe passing distance will increase driver awareness of safe passing and result in safer passing practices. This is crucial to help prevent more injuries and deaths on our roads.

- 30 cyclists have been killed on Hawaii's roads in 10 years (2005-2014)
- 44% of all cyclist fatalities result from being struck from behind or sideswiped (national data)
- 12% of cyclists "felt threatened for personal safety" the last time they rode and "someone drove too close to me" was the primary reason (national data)

Safely sharing our roads requires clear and agreed upon ground rules. No driver wants to hit a cyclist, and some just don't understand what a safe passing distance is. The Safe Passing 3 Foot bill will make it clear to all drivers that 3 feet is the minimum safe passing distance.

Twenty-six states and Washington DC have amended their Safe Passing laws to include 3 feet as the minimum distance when overtaking a bicyclist. Police, cities, states, and nonprofits in these states are using signage, enforcement, and awareness campaigns to make sure their Safe Passing laws make their streets safer.

Sincerely,

Maui Bicycling League
Saman Dias, **Chair**
03/14/2018

HB-2215-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 10:44:18 AM

Testimony for TRE on 3/14/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sandra nishek	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, My name is Sandra Nishek and I reside on the island of Kauai. This law to protect cyclists is long over due. I am an avid rider, been riding all of my life. I am shocked and dismayed at how inconsiderate and dangerous drivers are. I am nearly hit on a daily basis. People are texting while driving, and not paying attention. Some drivers even try to intimidate me by revving their engines and honking when they are right next to me. If I was not a mother and a law abiding citizen I would track these people down to let them know how dangerous they are. My brother lives on Oahu and he rides and competes professionally. He was hit by a tourist last year. He suffered a broken finger, arm, collar bone and concussion. My co worker was hit 2 weeks ago in the Koloa Tree tunnel by a disposal truck. He has 8 staples in his head and a broken arm. He could have been killed. This **MUST** be addressed for all islands! It is mandatory that we educate both the cyclists and drivers. It must be the law, please! How many more injuries and deaths have to occur?? Please I implore you for action on this matter. Thank you for your time and consideration. Mahalo,

Sandra Nishek 808 639-9502



HB-2215-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 11:59:50 AM

Testimony for TRE on 3/14/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Phuoc Dinh	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I ride my bike and the Biki bikes on a regular basis around Honolulu. I strongly support this bicycle safety bill because it would greatly reduce the likelihood of an accident and it would make me feel much safer to have at least 3 feet of space between me and a passing vehicle. Thank you!



Hawaii State Legislature
House Bill 2215
Testimony by Michael Moule, Kaua'i County resident
March 14, 2018



I'm testifying in support of House Bill 2215. I strongly support the intent of this, although I have some recommended changes. This bill will increase safety for bicyclists and other road users, and will also reduce delays experienced by motorists who are following a slower-moving bicyclist. In the paragraphs below, I provide the reasons for my support of HB2215. My testimony is based on my experience working as a traffic and transportation engineer for more than 20 years, specializing in bicycle and pedestrian transportation and the interaction between various users on roadways.

The existing HRS 291C-43 already requires a driver of a vehicle to pass to the left of other vehicles (including bicycles) at a safe distance. However, it does not provide any definition of what this safe distance is with respect to a vehicle overtaking a bicyclist. I understand that police officers in Hawai'i have expressed concerns about the difficulty of enforcing the proposed changes to HRS 291C-43 to require a minimum separation of three feet. My testimony is that the existing law is very difficult to enforce since it does not provide a definition of a "safe distance" with respect to a motor vehicle overtaking a bicyclist. By providing a definition of a minimum amount of separation between a bicyclist and an overtaking vehicle, the proposed bill would make HRS 291C-43 easier to enforce and adjudicate. An increasing number of users, including motor vehicle drivers and bicyclists, are using cameras when traveling on streets and highways, so there is ever-increasing evidence in incidents and crashes involving a motorist and a bicyclist. This new law will make it easier to effectively use this evidence in police investigations and in courtrooms.

I have a few recommended changes to the language of the bill as follows:

- The addition of the words "or bicycle" to the title of HRS 291C-43 is not necessary. By definition (see HRS 291C-1), a bicycle is a vehicle. Adding "or bicycle" to the title of the statute is redundant.
- The words "or bicycles" do not need to be added to the first sentence of HRS 291C-43, as this is likewise redundant.
- I recommend editing the proposed new Subsection 2 of HRS 291C-43 as follows: "The driver of a motor vehicle passing or overtaking a bicycle bicyclist proceeding in the same direction shall allow at least three feet of separation between the right side of the overtaking driver's vehicle, including all mirrors or other protuberances, and the left side of the bicycle and the driver of the bicycle bicyclist, and shall not again drive to the right side of the roadway until safely clear of the overtaken bicycle." The reasons for these recommended changes are as follows:
 - The law should use "motor vehicle" due to the fact that "vehicle" by definition includes a bicycle. The bill as currently proposed would make it illegal for bicyclists to overtake other bicyclists with less than three feet of clearance. It is

reasonable for bicyclists to overtake other bicyclists with less than three feet of clearance in some circumstances.

- The law should replace “bicyclist” with “bicycle” as “bicycle” is defined in HRS 291C, but “bicyclist” is not. In addition, it should be clearly stated that the overtaking vehicle must have three feet of clearance to both the bicycle and the bicyclist (properly described as “the driver of the bicycle.”
- The law should refer to the “overtaking” driver’s vehicle to provide clarity. There are two drivers involved in situations where a motor vehicle overtakes a bicycle, including the driver of the overtaking vehicle and the driver of the bicycle.
- I recommend including a change to HRS 291C-47 to allow drivers of vehicles to cross over double yellow centerlines or other markings that designate no-passing zones. I recommend adding a subsection (d) to HRS 291C-47, as follows: “(d) This section does not apply to the driver of a vehicle overtaking a bicyclist proceeding in the same direction and in the same lane when overtaking the bicyclist can be done safely and without interfering with, impeding, or endangering other traffic lawfully using the highway. This subsection does not authorize driving to the left side of the center of the roadway when prohibited under sections 291C-45 or 291C-46.” Adding this language to HRS 291C-47 is as important if not more important than the proposed change to HRS 291C-43. This additional language is critical to encourage motorists to provide adequate clearance when overtaking bicyclists. On typical two-way, two-lane roadways, a motorist cannot safely overtake a bicyclist without crossing over the centerline of the roadway unless the roadway has a designated bicycle facility, usable paved shoulder, or a very wide travel lane. Such roadways often have no-passing zones near intersections, horizontal and vertical curves, bridges and other features. No-passing zones are designed specifically for the dynamics of one motor vehicle overtaking another motor vehicle, and do not consider the dynamics of a motor vehicle overtaking a slower-moving bicycle. There are many situations where a motorist can safely overtake a bicyclist in a no-passing zone that was designed for motor vehicles overtaking motor vehicles. There are hundreds of miles of two-lane roadways in Hawai’i that have continuous double yellow centerlines that create no passing zones. Under current law, a motorist traveling behind a slower bicyclist on a narrow, two-lane roadway with a double yellow centerline must either wait behind the bicyclist until there is room to overtake within the lane, or pass the bicyclist illegally (yet safely) by crossing the no-passing zone markings. On many roadways in all counties in Hawaii, the available room to overtake within the lane does not exist for long distances.