

HB-2215

Submitted on: 2/27/2018 3:52:19 PM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chief of Police Darryl Perry	Kauai Police Department	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Thank you for your efforts in keeping our community, especially bicyclist safe from harm, by introducing this legislative bill to mandate operators of motor vehicles to keep a 3 feet minimum distance when passing. As the Chief of Police for the County of Kauai, who also happens to be an avid cyclist, I often encounter situations in which trucks, cars, and all manner of vehicles come exceeding close while I'm riding on the roadway. Hopefully this change in the law will not only save lives, but would also send a message to our visitors that Hawaii is a bicycle friendly State. I strongly support the passage of HB2215. Thank you for this opportunity to submit my testimony in favor of this bill.

Mahalo. Police Chief Darryl D. Perry

Committee on Judiciary
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Chair
Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: Thursday, March 1st, 2018 2 pm
Measure: **HB 2215**

Dear Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Kari Benes and I am the current chair of the Hawaii Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) asking for your **support of HB 2215**. *A safe passing law for bicyclists* is one of the life saving priorities outlined by the Hawaii SHSP Core Committee.

According to Hawaii Department of Transportation there were a total of 12 bicycle related fatalities from 2014 to 2017. 5 out of the 12 fatalities involved a motorist overtaking a bicyclist.

Hawaii is among 9 other states that do not have a safe passing law to protect bicycle riders. Most states (28) have a 3-foot passing law for bicyclists, similar to what is proposed in HB 2215.¹

Supporting HB 2215, you can help encourage drivers to provide a safe distance between their vehicle and a bicycle rider along with helping us achieve SHSP's vision that all of Hawaii's road users arrive safely at their destinations.

To view the Hawaii Strategic Highway Safety Plan go to www.hawaiishsp.com

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Kari Benes -Chair

Hawaii Strategic Highway Safety Plan

¹ <http://www.ncsl.org/research/transportation/safely-passing-bicyclists.aspx>

HB-2215

Submitted on: 2/27/2018 2:33:04 PM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

This bill will provide motorists, police, prosecution, and planners with a standard, what a safe minimum distance is. It has been successfully implemented in many states. Education is the main goal of this bill

HB-2215

Submitted on: 2/27/2018 2:59:03 PM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Nishimoto and Vice Chair San Buenaventura,

Kindly accept this supporting testimony on behalf of the Kauai Path board of directors.

We teach youth and adults bicycling safety. People are safe bicycling on our streets when they are treated respectfully by other road users. This bill provides a necessary legal framework in simple terms -- motorists are required to give people on bicycles the space they deserve when sharing the roadways.

Thank you for your attention to this submission.

Sincerely,

Tommy Noyes

Executive Director, Kauai Path, Inc.



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

February 27, 2018

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB2215, RELATING TO BICYCLES

Aloha Judiciary Chair Nishimoto and Committee Members:

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

Submitted on: 2/27/2018 3:22:55 PM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I ride my bicycle around Lihue 5 times a week, usually commuting to work. I ride on a variety of roads some with and some without bike routes, and many with "share the road" signs. However, sometimes cars pass dangerously close. This bill would help drivers understand why responsible bicyclists ride that way they do and the various hazards bicyclist have to look for in the roads and on both sides of their bicycle. This bill is in line with the rice street revitalization and would be a critical part of that project. We live on an island with limited resources. Let's support those who choose self-propelled vehicles as transportation.

HB-2215

Submitted on: 2/27/2018 3:29:53 PM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bill Wiecking	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a cyclist, I've been knocked off my bike several times in the past few years in Waimea, where the margins on the side of the road are either not marked, or too often non-existent. A 3 foot passing law would hopefully develop awareness in drivers that we are vulnerable with very little room to safely ride, as we are legally entitled to. This bill could also go a long way towards improving the use of healthy transportation alternatives in our community, as people would feel safer on the road, particularly with their keiki.

HB-2215

Submitted on: 2/27/2018 3:36:31 PM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

My husband and several good friends are avid cyclists. Recently, there have been several serious vehicle/cylist accidents on the Big Island. Unfortunately, the cyclist **always** loses. Many of these cyclist follow all the rules of the road and yet they are moving targets on the road. I encourage passing the 3 foot rule between bikes and vehicles to promote and improve safety for all cyclists.

Mahalo,

Lucia Kaplan Kailua Kona

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Submitted on: 2/27/2018 3:52:38 PM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James H. Johnson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I drive the roads of West Hawaii every day and am fearful that someone will be injured or killed because of the closeness of vehicles and bikes on so many of our roads. This bill would support the cyclists that use our roads, here and all over the state, with a safety margin that is very much needed.

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Submitted on: 2/27/2018 3:56:40 PM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please support this important bill to encourage multi-modal transportation and keep people safe!

February 27, 2018

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB2215, RELATING TO BICYCLES

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

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

Submitted on: 2/27/2018 4:09:09 PM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daniel Hodel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

As an avid Big Island cyclist who has sampled the highways of other counties as well, it is clear to me that HB2215 -- establishing a clear 3 feet minimum safe passing distance for motorists overtaking cyclists -- is greatly needed. It will make Hawaii's roads safer for cyclists and motorists alike.

This standard is rapidly becoming law throughout the United States. Let's get on board this year, and not wonder after the next bad accident or fatality if such a law would have helped. The time to act is now.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
G. Daniel Hodel

76-897 Hualalai Rd, Kailua Kona, HI 96740

HB-2215

Submitted on: 2/27/2018 4:27:07 PM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lynette Noble	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB2215, RELATING TO BICYCLES

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

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.

Mahalo!

Lynette Noble

HB-2215

Submitted on: 2/27/2018 4:30:23 PM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Georges Auberger	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I'm a recent transplant to Kauai from California and an avid road cyclist. Due to the rural nature of the island, it's not uncommon to experience roads with poor pavement and narrow shoulders. It makes it difficult to keep on the right hand side of the road at all time. Under these conditions, it is very unsettling to be passed by vehicle traveling at speeds of 50-55 mph. I've heard countless stories of people on bikes being clipped or hit from behind by vehicles that came too close.

Also larger vehicle like pick up truck will create side wind turbulence that can be quite dangerous if they pass too close.

In my experience, most commercial truck drivers are aware of this and often pass with a generous margin which is much appreciated.

It would make a world of difference for every driver to be educated about and provide a 3' safety margin when passing bicycles on the road.

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Submitted on: 2/27/2018 4:30:50 PM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

To Rep Nishimoto:

This bill comes at a particularly apt time. The weekend of 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.

Respectfully,
Jon Hayes

HB-2215

Submitted on: 2/27/2018 6:21:26 PM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lee Chamberlain	Maui Bicycle League	Support	No

Comments:

The Maui Bicycling League (MBL) is an active, engaged bicycle advocacy group representing the interests of bicyclists and potential bicyclists. Critical to this is supporting Complete Streets making roads safer and more accessible for everyone who uses them.

Honolulu ranks as number 3 as worst cities for traffic in USA. In 2013 it was number 2. Oahu planners and administrators did not plan properly to accommodate the population's transportation needs. Short sighted exclusive reliance on the automobile and creating infrastructure focused only on the automobile was a mistake. Now the struggle is how to mend the problem?

The MBL regularly calls for Maui administrators to grasp the potential danger we face here on Maui as well, and start studying and supporting alternative means of transportation in your policies, using of the latest and best design criteria and guidelines, while recognizing the need for flexibility to balance user needs.

Bike paths exemplify the connectivity of a community to resources with the lowest possible impact to the environment and the maximum potential for public enjoyment.

People across Hawaii are increasing choosing to walk and bicycle, however our roadways are not keeping up. The unsafe conditions of our roads are evidence by the high numbers of pedestrian and bicyclist fatalities and serious injuries.

Per Hawaii Department of Health there's been around 30 pedestrian and bicyclists fatalities and 600 serious injuries per year in recent years.

People of Hawaii have long had a love affair with big cars. Cycling in general has never been very popular in Hawaii. We do have the best climate and topography in the world for bike commuting, but we don't do it.

Lots of people resent cyclists. They want them to disappear. No one wants to ride anymore – there are no bike lanes and it's dangerous. More often, motorists just don't or can't see them and run them over.

Maui County recently prosecuted a negligent driver whom struck and killed veteran cyclist, Karl Hagen. He was charged and found guilty of two counts of homicide, (including one count of homicide under Hawaii's "Vulnerable User" law) and with operating a vehicle under the influence of drugs and driving without vehicle insurance.

In likeness MBL has been asked to present a letter, when appropriate, from Carmella Jankowski whom writes;

On March 19, 2015, my husband and I rented bicycles for one of our vacation activities. During the rental period, I suffered extensive bicycle injuries.

My husband and I biked to the coffee plantation which had very little traffic and allowed new bicycle riders an opportunity to become more familiar with the features of the bicycle. We then had to ride along the highway in order to bike near the beaches. On the way to return the bikes we again had to ride along the highway. It was approximately 2:30 p.m. and traffic was fairly heavy. When approaching the traffic signal (can't remember name of street, it is one light north of the Westin Kaanapali ocean villas), north and southbound traffic had the green light. As we proceeded to cross the intersection, a car pulled into traffic not looking both ways and nearly struck me. I had to immediately swerve to avoid colliding with the car. In doing so, I swerved with the bike and fell to the ground. Both of my legs were badly bruised and after seeing the hotel physician, I was instructed to immediately go to the Maui Emergency Room.

There I had xrays to detect injuries. Needless to say, it put quite a damper on the rest of my vacation.

The reason for this letter is to ask that Maui County provide an area where tourists (locals as well) can ride bicycles and feel safe while participating in family activities. We come to Maui to enjoy this beautiful island and be able to enjoy outdoor activities without worry of being injured.

I understand that there is a road that runs along the highway that would be great for this activity. It is the Lower Cane Haul Road. If this were available to use for bicycling, I think more tourists would take advantage of this activity. I would not feel comfortable riding along the highway if I had younger children with me. I just feel that a pathway that is not congested with traffic would encourage more tourists as well as locals to ride more.

Please forward my letter to the appropriate department so that as a yearly visitor to the island there could be a safe road for this activity. Mahalo

Carmella Jankowski

Maui Visitor

312-762-3105 work

email: clange@batescarey.com

Explicitly stating, safe walking and bicycling environment is essential to improving public transportation. Proper planning, budgeting and implementation to provide for public transportation customers and transit vehicles can create new partnerships and a transportation network that encourages healthy, active travel and reduces congestion.

We still have a chance here in Hawaii if we start now by providing infrastructure understanding that people who travel by foot or on bicycle are legitimate users of the transportation system and equally deserving of safe facilities to accommodate their travel.

The Safe Passing 3 Feet law will make our roads safer for cycling (and for all road users) by setting a clear minimum safe passing distance.

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

The MBL supports the efforts of the Hawaii Bicycling Leagues work to increase safety and awareness of Bicyclists by promoting the "3 Foot for Safer Streets Bill". Please pass the "3 Foot Safe Passing Bill".

HB-2215

Submitted on: 2/27/2018 5:10:28 PM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Geoffrey Bower	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a cyclist on Hawaii island. I encourage you to support HB 2215, which will make the roads safer for cyclists, drivers, and pedestrians. Cycling is an important component of green infrastructure in our state as well as an excellent recreational activity.

HB-2215

Submitted on: 2/27/2018 5:29:12 PM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

As a cyclist, I fully support this effort to make Hawaii's roads safer and hold reckless drivers more accountable when they place cyclists' lives at risk.

HB-2215

Submitted on: 2/27/2018 5:39:08 PM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

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.

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 SB2529, 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.

SB2529 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."

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

Submitted on: 2/27/2018 5:43:12 PM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christy Fauth	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha to all those in attendance to review and vote on HB2215.

Thank you for taking time today to address this very important issue as it relates to the safety of MANY citizens of Hawaii who ride their bicycles daily to and from their places of work, to and from places of recreation and for their all around exercise and enjoyment. I ride my bike 3-7 days per week for all the reasons listed above, and I can tell you that I have had many close calls with cars being too close to me while riding.

HB2215 will help to ensure that our roads are safer for those who want to enjoy riding their bicycles, and will implement the national standard that more than twenty-six other states + Washington DC have adopted and put into law.

The passing of this law will create a clear picture as to what a safe passing distance between a car and a cyclist and will ensure that EVERYONE in their cars and on bikes know what to expect.

I encourage the state of Hawaii to also implement signage and enforcement so that all citizens are clear on the three feet rule.

Mahalo for taking time to read my testimony and I hope that we can create a safer Hawaii for cyclists, because it's something I enjoy doing SO VERY MUCH!

HB-2215

Submitted on: 2/27/2018 6:06:57 PM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Moses	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony Supporting HB2215

I'm a member of HBL and I strongly agree with their position on this measure. My wife, friend and I each bike about 25 miles a week, and despite wearing extensive safety gear, often feel vulnerable. It would seem patently obvious that 3 feet is the *minimum* safe distance that a motorist should provide when overtaking a bicyclist. Often when biking, especially on hills, and buffeted by any gusty wind, it's hard not to deviate from a straight line, making a 3 foot clearance even more crucial. I'm frequently passed in bike lanes by vehicles allowing mere inches between us, particularly when the vehicle has a wide mirror. If first responders are being given a whole open lane, when practical, under the "Move Over" law, certainly bicyclists deserve at least 3 feet. Mahalo, Robert Moses

HB-2215

Submitted on: 2/27/2018 6:24:52 PM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

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

Submitted on: 2/27/2018 6:43:29 PM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Judiciary Chair Rep Nishimoto,

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

Submitted on: 2/27/2018 6:45:23 PM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melvin Nakahata	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

I support HB2215 in that I am a cyclist who commutes to work regularly. I was struck by a car from behind in 2005, but luckily suffered only a concussion, separated shoulder and dislocated finger. This could have been worse! Had the 3 foot safe passing law been passed back then, I probably would not have had to gone through that agony. I urge you to support this bill with the safety of cyclists in mind. It is important that this pass bill so motorists know and practice safe passing distances. We will then see more people using bicycles as a viable, safe transportation means.

Mahalo for your support.

M. Nakahata

HB-2215

Submitted on: 2/27/2018 7:02:35 PM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John O'Keefe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I ride regularly on the streets of Oahu for recreation and health benefits. The proposed law would benefit cyclist by clearly establishing a safety standard for drivers when approaching and passing cyclists. Enacting this law will hopefully reduce car-bicycle accidents and make the roads in the State safer for all users. There is no down side to this bill.

HB-2215

Submitted on: 2/27/2018 8:08:49 PM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christopher Tipton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I bike once a week between Maikiki and Waikiki. On the streets without bike lanes, I'm often passed by cars too closely. I support this bill to ensure safer conditions for bikers and drivers.

HB-2215

Submitted on: 2/27/2018 8:19:15 PM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

this is a no brainer. Any opposition is nonsense. It is currently unclear what a safe distance is. This makes it clear- 3 feet. please protect the safety of people who are doing their part to alleviate the economic and ecological social impact of driving and set the safe passing standard as 3 feet.

HB-2215

Submitted on: 2/27/2018 8:54:44 PM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paul Bernstein	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony Strongly Supporting HB2215

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

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, lead to safer passing practices, and reduce injuries and deaths to cyclists.

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 for listening to my request.

With warm aloha,

Paul Bernstein

HB-2215

Submitted on: 2/27/2018 9:02:31 PM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I live on Kauai and ride a bicycle for exercise 3 days a week. I currently avoid riding on the highway and local streets because people pass too closely. Hawaii drivers need to learn to respect the rights of bicycle riders, and share the rode.

In the Northwest, where the weather is much worse, many people commute by bicycle and generally use bicycles much more than Hawaii residents. With a little education and the right laws, more people could begin using bikes for more of their transportation needs. Given our isolation and need to import all of our gasoline, it would be very wise to do everything possible to encourage bikers.

Jonathan McRoberts

Kilauea, HI 96754

808-652-6863

HB-2215

Submitted on: 2/27/2018 9:16:29 PM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jason DeMarco	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB2215 requiring motorists to pass bicycles with at least three feet of clearance. As a bicycle commuter in Honolulu for six years I have experienced several near misses and frequent scares of close passings by vehicles. I will feel more safe on our roadways if I know motorists will provide this minimal passing clearance. Please support this bill and promote safety on our roads. Mahalo.

HB-2215

Submitted on: 2/27/2018 9:18:24 PM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

My name is Andrew Dunne, and I am a resident of Kula, Maui, Hawaii.

I have been cycling in Hawaii for 27 years, and have ridden extensively on Maui, Oahu, the Big Island and Lanai. In that time I have witnessed thousands of cars pass dangerously close to bicycles and pedestrians who were using the roads or shoulders in a legal and safe fashion. I have personally been intentionally run off the road five separate times, and unintentionally many more. Every single cyclist I know in the islands has had incidents with motor vehicles passing too closely when the cyclist was riding in a law-abiding manner. Unfortunately, several times these incidents resulted in the serious injury or death of a cyclist that I knew.

I have also had the pleasure of riding in several states and countries that have *and enforce* a Safe Passing Law requiring three to five feet of distance between a passing motor vehicle and a cyclist, and the difference in the behavior of drivers is astounding. Most drivers pass safely, allow cyclists and pedestrians to co-exist with them on the roads, and there are far fewer cases of intentional harassment or assault.

I strongly urge the state to adopt a minimum passing distance of at least three feet and to work with the police departments, the state and county DOTs and DMVs, and the Hawaii Bicycling League to help them enforce the laws and educate drivers, cyclists, and other road users about their responsibilities.

Three feet of Aloha should be the law!

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Andrew Dunne

23 Akea Place

Kula, HI 96790

HB-2215

Submitted on: 2/27/2018 10:21:05 PM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daniel C. Smith	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is a good common sense measure to promote bike safety. While it is no substitute for defensive riding, I think it is a good idea.

Dan Smith

Pearl City.

HB-2215

Submitted on: 2/28/2018 5:30:59 AM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rick Vollstedt	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

This past year we've seen many fatal and non-fatal bike accidents on the big island. I think we should do everything possible to protect riders and a 3' rule certainly is a step in the right direction and then we need law enforcement to do their job. Mahalo

HB-2215

Submitted on: 2/28/2018 6:18:34 AM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thomas Christy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill when passed will be beneficial to Cyclists and Motorists. As residents of Hawaii we should be concerned about the Safety of all people. I hope that in the future, more information about "Sharing the Road" can be included in the Drivers Test Manual to create greater awareness.

Submitted with Aloha to All,

Thomas Christy

HB-2215

Submitted on: 2/28/2018 6:31:20 AM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
amy ammen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I'm glad to see this being presented again. As a bike commuter, one of the biggest threats on the road are drivers who do not give enough clearance. Let me give a few examples of why a biker may not be able to exactly "hold the lane."

1. Having to avoid water that accumulates at the side of the road in areas where drains aren't working
2. When biking up a steep incline it can be difficult a little weaving is unavoidable
3. When approaching a vehicle that people are exiting

Please pass this law!

HB-2215

Submitted on: 2/28/2018 7:27:11 AM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Derinda L Thatcher	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

TO: Judiciary Chair Rep Nishimoto,

Thank you for taking the time to consider this bill. We have seen far to many bicycle deaths in Hawaii. Many states have a passed similar legislation to keep cyclist safe. This bill doesn't hurt motorist but it does send a message of awarness that bicycles have a right to use the road. We've experienced a few drivers locally who drive too close to cyclists trying to scare them, this bill would give the Police teeth to stop these folks when they are reported. I belive this Bill will raise awareness on all levels of motor vehicle, bicycle and even pedestrian saftey, and that can only be a good thing for all parties and the people of our state.

I urge you to support this Bill.

Many Mahalos,

Derinda Thatcher

HB-2215

Submitted on: 2/28/2018 7:48:36 AM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kela Vargas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Kela and I support HB2215. I am an athlete on the island of Hawaii and believe it is extremely important for motorists to keep a safe distance from cyclists on the road. This bill impacts not only myself but also my entire family. I cannot support it enough. When I am out on the highway training on my road bike I am constantly in fear that I will become roadkill. I take the necessary precautions (wearing my helmet, checking my surroundings, etc) but to know that motorists are legally obligated to give me space would make my training experience much more enjoyable.

HB-2215

Submitted on: 2/28/2018 8:06:29 AM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I have cycled all over this island and nearly killed multiple times by cars speeding past at very close distance and in some cases intentionally attempting to knock me or other cyclists I ride with off the road. These are usually in places with no shoulder and/or very poor road conditions. The roads are full of potholes that will flip a bike immediately. The shoulders are full of broken glass which will puncture a tire and possibly cause a crash. However motorists don't care about this and are only concerned with speeding to their destination and not allowing a few extra seconds to slow down and pass other legal vehicles on the road.

I suggest passing this law and publicizing it widely. Otherwise Oahu is condoning attempted assault and even attempted murder by these types of drivers by saying it's ok to attack cyclists of all ages on Oahu by speeding next to them as close as they want to with no regard for their safety. "You take your life into your hands when cycling on Oahu" that's what we all say. Isn't that just so funny?

HB-2215

Submitted on: 2/28/2018 8:24:35 AM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Mikel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill is so important for the health and safety of Hawaii's residents. Not only does it need to pass to protect cyclists (and drivers) from dangerous and traumatizing collisions, it creates an environment where more families, commuters and recreation cyclists can enjoy the weather and see hawaii and it's local businesses up close and personal rather than caged in a 2000 pound vehicle. I commute and ride my toddler to day care. with the child seat in the back, drivers are usually more precatious but we still have some close calls. Legislation like HB 2215 and effective enforcement can create a culture of aloha where drivers and cyclists share the road with mutual respect. Please vote yes and support this legislation

HB-2215

Submitted on: 2/28/2018 8:44:00 AM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

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.

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,

John (Jack) Barile



Date: February 27, 2018

To: The Honorable Scott Nishimoto, Chair
The Honorable Joy San Buenaventura, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

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

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

Hrg: March 1, 2018 at 2:00 PM at Capitol Room 325

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in **support of HB2215**, 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 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 out of committee.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Trish", written in a cursive style.

Trish La Chica
Policy and Advocacy Director

HB-2215

Submitted on: 2/28/2018 9:21:29 AM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Roger Vargas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha State Legislature:

I ride a bike quite often for recreation and sometimes competition events on Hawaii Island. I have been hit previously by a drunk driver car running a stop sign on Oahu. Fortunately, I was not hurt seriously. Several of my friends have been hit both on Oahu and the Big Island. Drivers need to become aware of cyclists and just cannot run them off the road. This will create a safer environment for all involved. I urge you to pass Bill HB2215 immediately. Passage of the bill will create a safer for all involved and will reduce fatalities on Hawaii roads.

Yours Sincerely,

Roger

Roger I. Vargas, Ph.D

United States Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Research Service

Daniel K. Inouye US Pacific Basin Agricultural Research Center

64 Nowelo St., Hilo, HI 96720

Tel: (808)959-4329; (808)937-0956

HB-2215

Submitted on: 2/28/2018 9:42:24 AM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sery Berhanu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

I, Sery Berhanu, strongly support HB2215, which would clarify 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 the 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.

Thank you,

Sery Berhanu

HB-2215

Submitted on: 2/28/2018 9:42:37 AM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Kingdon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a lifelong bicycle commuter, a paramedic, and someone with graduate training in injury prevention, I fully support the safe passing bill. It is a sensible and effective way to make our roads safer for all users. Thank you for your consideration.

HB-2215

Submitted on: 2/28/2018 10:58:38 AM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rick Beach	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. Let's make Hawaii safer for everyone.

HB-2215

Submitted on: 2/28/2018 11:31:06 AM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robyn Hafner	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As both a motorist and a cyclist, I strongly support HB2215. This measure, which is already successfully in use in many other states, will make our roadways safer for all users.



March 1, 2018

Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair, Committee on Judiciary
Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice-Chair, Committee on Judiciary
Honorable Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

RE: SUPPORT HB2215 Relating to Bicycles

Chair Nishimoto, Vice-Chair Buenaventura, Members of the Committee on Judiciary:

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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HB-2215

Submitted on: 2/28/2018 11:43:04 AM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly recommend passing this bill because bicyclists deserve safety on the roads. This bill is necessary unless the state is willing to designate an entire lane on each road for people who bike. Because we are still so faraway from a walk and bike-centric state, ensuring a three feet safe passing distance is a temporary solution to prevent deaths due to commuting among dangerous cars. If we want a permanent solution, please visit places such as Amsterdam, Minneapolis, and Copenhagen for ideas. Thanks!

HB-2215

Submitted on: 2/28/2018 11:48:16 AM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
diane quitiquit	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please accept my testimony in SUPPORT of HB2215 creating a 3' safe passing lane between bicycles and vehicles. This bill will contribute to the safety of cyclists.

Thank you

diane s quitiquit

HB-2215

Submitted on: 2/28/2018 12:24:15 PM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christopher Castillo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Christopher Castillo, and I strongly support this bill. I have felt unsafe on multiple occasions while riding my bike on Oahu when cars and other large vehicles pass by me at high speed, giving me only inches of space. I have also personally been at the receiving end of road rage from car drivers who pass too closely, then get angry when they almost brush up against me.

I believe that many motorists simply are not aware that bicycles require a safe passing distance when they are being overtaken. Making 3 feet of passing distance the law would be a tremendous help in getting the word out to give people on bicycles a safe amount of room when they are being passed.

Most US states already have similar laws, as well as regions of Europe and around the world. This legislation would help make Hawaii a more bicycle friendly state as well as make the streets safer for all residents.

Mahalo

HB-2215

Submitted on: 2/28/2018 12:24:18 PM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please make the 3 foot minimum passing rule a law. This would place a definitive distance into driver's minds rather than a generic "safe" distance. We all need to share the road, but do it in a safe manner.

HB-2215

Submitted on: 2/28/2018 12:41:24 PM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eugene Schmitz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB2215 (3 foot bicycle safe passing distance) will serve as a vast improvement over present requirement to pass "at a safe distance" by notifying persons driving motor vehicles what a minimum safe passing distance actually is - and making it a requirement rather than only a suggestion / best practice in our Driver's Manual. Hawaii should serve the health and safety of its people by providing this very reasonable statute; one which is presently codified in a significant number of other states. Thank you.

HB-2215

Submitted on: 2/28/2018 12:58:02 PM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

As a person who frequently rides a bike to get to and from meetings, for recreation and for exercise, I am someone who is often at risk of being severely injured by a car. When I'm riding a bike, one of the scariest and most frequent situations I encounter is cars trying to pass me without enough space to do so. I have been scared to death and even run off of the road by cars squeezing by. I've also been clipped by mirrors on cars without the motorist even knowing they hit me. Passing HB2215 would cause people to think about giving bicyclists a safe space between their car and the curb or parked cars and reduce the risk of inadvertent harm. Especially with the lack of sufficient bike lanes and the need to sometimes ride in a lane with car traffic, this would also provide a bit of comfort to people like me and better align Hawaii with similar laws in many other states in the USA. Thank you for your consideration and helping to keep me safe!

Lori McCarney



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

March 1, 2018, 2:00 P.M.

Room 325

(Testimony is 1 page long)

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 2215

Aloha Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and Committee members:

Blue Planet Foundation **strongly supports** HB 2215, increasing the safety of bicyclists statewide by amending Hawaii Revised Statutes 291C-43 to include three feet as the minimum safe distance that a motorist must provide when overtaking a bicyclist.

Bicycling is a key component to sustainable transportation in Hawaii. 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, the U.S. Census data for 2016 show that only 1.0% of Hawaii commuters use a bike as their primary mode.

While there are numerous barriers to increasing the number of bicyclists, 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.

We respectfully request that this committee advance HB 2215 as currently drafted.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2215

Submitted on: 2/28/2018 1:39:52 PM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I ride my bike regularly and have had many close calls where drivers have driven so close to me

that I narrowly avoided an accident. I feel that this bill would help make drivers more aware of the space needed for cyclists to feel more comfortable when riding and hopefully would encourage people to begin cycling thus reducing traffic congestion and pollution.

Mahalo,

James Shuford

HB-2215

Submitted on: 2/28/2018 1:44:33 PM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kilinoe Bloss	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

For safety reasons please put up **yeild to bikes sign and rumble strip** on right turn at the bottom of palisades for lane when turning right heading north. I ride my bike to work and I can't count the number of times I have almost been hit by drivers quickly turning right without looking for bike riders. Same problem could be resovled at the bottom of costco road.

HB-2215

Submitted on: 2/28/2018 1:45:30 PM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alex Candelario	PATH	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2215

Submitted on: 2/28/2018 2:15:45 PM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aly Hite	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a cyclist who recently moved from California, I can attest to the 3 Foot law actually working. I also worked as the Safe Routes to School county-wide coordinator and know how nervous kids can be on bikes on public streets. Allowing that extra room for passing provides them with more confidence on bikes and allows for less injuries and fatalities. Please support this bill!

HB-2215

Submitted on: 2/28/2018 2:52:02 PM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha & thank you for your support of HB2215 !!!

This should be a no-brainer! Especially with the amazing success of the bike share program BIKI (WELL DONE!), people driving cars need to know what bikes have just as much right to be on the roads as their cars.

We should be encouraging as many bikes as possible to people can get fit, and Hawai'i uses less oil. Right now, too many roads and drivers are too dangerous ! Please take a step forwards to help move Hawai'i forwards and support HB2215.

Many thanks,

James McCay

2957 Kalakaua Ave Honolulu HI 96815

HB-2215

Submitted on: 2/28/2018 3:03:16 PM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan J. Wurtzburg	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please make bicycling safer. Bicyclists are hit by cars regularly. Stop the carnage and pass the bill.

Sincerely,

Susan J. Wurtzburg, Ph.D.

keen bicyclist

HB-2215

Submitted on: 2/28/2018 3:10:15 PM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Asia Yeary	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear committee,

Thank you for your time. I hope you will support HB 2215. Have you ever biked and felt the wind of a vehicle as they drive by? Does this make you nervous? Do your kids bike? Doesn't it make sense to provide a small buffer? It's easy for vehicles to drive a few feet away and it is the difference between life and death for bicyclists, so why not support this bill and provide a minimum of three feet?

More and more people are bicycling in Hawaii and it only makes sense to make bicycling safe for everyone. Please support this safe passing law. Giving a minimum of three feet when a vehicle passes a bicycle is critical to ensuring the safety of our community.

My family and I like to bike around town to see friends and shop. Bicycling can be a healthy, affordable and enjoyable way to get around. Unfortunately, the entire experience can be frightening and dangerous if cars pass too closely. I try to stay in designated bike lanes but even then sometimes vehicles fly by just inches from my handlebars. It would take almost no effort on the drivers part to drive a few feet away from bicyclist. To a car driver, this does not mean much and they probably do not even notice that driving by a cyclist at close proximity is a big deal. To a bicyclist, proximity is a huge deal. A few feet can turn an otherwise good bicycling trip into a scary experience and, unfortunately, a few feet can be the difference between life or death for cyclists. Please support this bill. It is super simple and straightforward and there are no negatives to giving bicyclists a few more feet for safety.

Thank you!

Asia



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Endocrinologist
Kapiolani Medical Center
Professor, John A. Burns School of Medicine

Scott R. Nahme
Senior Vice President & Senior Manager,
Commercial Real Estate Lending Division
Central Pacific Bank

May M. Okhiro, MD, MS
Director, Hawaii Initiative for Childhood Obesity
Research & Education
Assistant Professor
John A. Burns School of Medicine

Bobby Senaha
Co-Founder and CEO
Blackletter Group

Valerie Sonoda
Educator, Health Systems Development
HMSA

Gino Soquena
Government and Community Relations Director
Hawaii Laborers Union Local 368

Stacy K. Takekawa, Esq.
Associate Attorney
Cades Schutte, LLP

Blake Yokotake
Human Resources Manager
Seven-Eleven Hawaii, Inc.

Hawaii Advisory Board

Steven Ai
President
City Mill Company, Ltd.

Wilfred Fujimoto, MD
Professor, Emeritus of Medicine
University of Washington

Mufi Hannemann
President and CEO
Hawaii Lodging & Tourism Association

Stafford J. Kiguchi
Senior Vice President and Manager - Corporate
Communications and Government Relations
Bank of Hawaii

Marjorie K. L. M. Mau, MS, MD, FACP
Professor, Department Native Hawaiian Health
John A. Burns School of Medicine
National Adult Strategies Committee

Mia Noguchi
President
Lotus Pond Communications

Richard Okazaki
President
Diagnostic Laboratory Services, Inc.

LJ Duenas
Hawaii Director
American Diabetes Association

February 28, 2018

Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair
Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventure, Vice Chair
House Committee on Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol

RE: Testimony In Support of HB2215

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 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 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

American Diabetes Association
Pioneer Plaza
900 Fort Street Mall, Suite 940
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tel (808) 947-5979 | Fax (808) 546-7502
1-888-DIABETES (342-2383)
diabetes.org/hawaii
Federal Tax Identification Number: 13-1623888

HB-2215

Submitted on: 2/28/2018 3:46:15 PM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carlos Kelton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am supportive of the 3 foot safe passing bill.

As an avid cyclist, I've had lots of close calls with cars passing too closely.

I feel that with this rule, cycle/ automobile collisions will decrease.

Thanks,

Carlos



Board of Directors

Greg Gaug, Chair

Bruce Coppa

Rick Egged

Josh Feldman

Marcy Fleming

Randolph Moore

Michael Robinson

Lori McCarney,
Executive Director and
CEO

914 Ala Moana
Boulevard
Honolulu, HI 96814

GoBiki.org
@GoBikiHI

LATE

February 28, 2018

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

Bikeshare Hawaii **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.

With over half a million trips taken on Biki to date, bikeshare has successfully introduced or re-introduced thousands of Hawaii residents and visitors to the idea of biking for their short trips around Honolulu. But the number one concern among both new and seasoned riders continues to be safety.

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, and to giving cyclist the confidence to ride safely among motor vehicles when it is necessary.

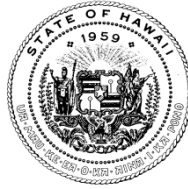
Thank you for the opportunity to share our support for HB2215.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori McCarney".

Lori McCarney
Executive Director and CEO

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



LATE

Testimony by:
JADE T. BUTAY
INTERIM DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
ROY KATALANI
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 1, 2018
2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 325

H.B. 2215
RELATING TO BICYCLES

House Committee on Judiciary

The Department of Transportation **supports** H.B. 2215 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.

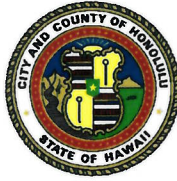
Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

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

LATE

KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR



WES FRYSZTACKI
DIRECTOR

JON Y. NOUCHI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

March 1, 2018

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

Dear Chair Nishimoto and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: Testimony on House Bill No. 2215
Relating to Bicycles

The Department of Transportation Services, on behalf of the City and County of Honolulu ("City"), is in **support** of House Bill No. 22151, Relating to Bicycles.

This bill provides that motorists provide a safe distance when overtaking a bicyclist.

The City encourages the use of bicycles as a mode of transportation, and supports measures which promote the safety of our bicyclists, motorists and pedestrians on our roadways and streets.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony.

Very truly yours,


Wes Frysztacki
Director

LATE

HB-2215

Submitted on: 2/28/2018 4:23:00 PM
Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cody Winchester	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in strong support of the Safe Passing 3 Foot Bill. I feel unsafe biking on many of Hawaii's roads. Honolulu's transportation infrastructure has historically favored automobile usage over pedestrian and bike safety. Drivers must share the road and be held accountable for doing so.

ADDRESS

3442 Waialae Ave., Suite 1
Honolulu, HI 96816

PHONE

808-735-5756



FAX

808-735-7989

EMAIL

bicycle@hbl.org



Testimony Strongly Supporting HB2215

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

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

LATE

HB-2215

Submitted on: 2/28/2018 5:07:08 PM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Megan Bent	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



LATE

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.

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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.

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Sincerely,

Maui Bicycling League
Saman Dias, **Chair**
2/28/2018

LATE

HB-2215

Submitted on: 2/28/2018 7:29:33 PM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
O-Shen Christ	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am the road cyclist who lives on kauai. I ride more than anybody in the state of Hawaii approximately 1600 miles every month I do not have a vehicle my bicycle is my only vehicle so I spend a lot of times on the roads of my island in the neighboring islands and of course 3 feet law is in effect worldwide in most places we are lagging behind the current trends how are use one of the greatest cycling Mac is in the world in my humble opinion and more people would come here if it was safer

HB-2215

Submitted on: 2/28/2018 7:34:43 PM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Atcheson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a regular cyclist for both recreation and transportation. I use the cycle tracks and bike lanes when I can but often do need to share the road with cars where the shoulder is narrow or non-existent. I find that sometimes cars pass me extremely closely, much too close for comfort. Each time I wonder, "Do they not know how dangerous that is? Are they trying to 'teach me a lesson' and scare me from cycling on that road?" Sometimes it's literally inches of clearance between me and the car. I feel HB2215 is sensible legislation that will increase awareness of safe passing buffers and help protect cyclists. Please pass it. Thank you for considering my comments.

David Atcheson
1212 Nuuanu Ave, Apt. 906
Honolulu, HI 96817

LATE

HB-2215

Submitted on: 3/1/2018 9:09:03 AM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
LANIS WILSON	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As an avid bicyclist on Kauai, I'm 100 % in support of HB2215. Three feet separation is standard across most states I've biked in. We need to consider the safety of not only the cyclist but the motorist as we all share the roadways together. Rear-view mirrors on cars and pickup trucks are a real hazard and this 3 feet separation will certainly increase our safety on the roads.

LATE

HB-2215

Submitted on: 3/1/2018 12:42:25 PM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Bertoli	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

hello! As a long-time (10+ years) bike commuter in Honolulu, I am so happy to see the expanded access to bike lanes and biking infrastructure. But this 3-foot margin is a really key part of the puzzle. Very often, espeically in 'sharrow' lanes or unmarked lanes, I am passed by cars at exceptionally close range, which is both dangerous and terrifying. I urge the committee to consider this bill to keep our streets safer for everyone.

LATE

HB-2215

Submitted on: 3/1/2018 1:33:59 PM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this bill and beleive all roads should be safe for cyclists.