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Testimony by:

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

March 21, 2018
9:45 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 423

H.C.R. 30
URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO INCLUDE THE “DUTCH REACH” OR FAR-HAND METHOD IN DRIVER’S EDUCATION CURRICULA.

House Committee on Transportation

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** H.C.R. 30, to include the “Dutch Reach” or Far-Hand method into Hawaii’s driver’s education curricula.

The DOT supports all efforts to increase traffic safety. Therefore, DOT will include a “Dutch Reach” addendum to the driver education curriculum and further inform all certified driver education instructors at their required continuing education classes of the inclusion of this method into the curriculum.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

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March 20, 2018

Testimony Strongly Supporting HCR30/HR24

Aloha Transportation Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Quinlan, and esteemed members of the Committee on Transportation:

The Hawaii Bicycling League strongly supports HCR30/HR24 which urges the Department of Transportation to include the “Dutch Reach” or far-hand door opening method in driver education.

The act of opening a car door can be dangerous to passing bicyclists and drivers, which is why Hawaii law (HRS 291c-125) requires that one must open a vehicle door in a safe manner. “Dooring” or being struck by an opening door is a preventable bicycle-car crash that can result in serious injury or worse. Studies in Chicago, Boston, and Australia found that dooring crashes made up between 7-17% of bicycle crashes.

The “Dutch Reach” or far-hand door opening method is a simple motion that ensures that the driver or passenger faces and looks out into the street – and sees any approaching bicyclists or cars – before opening the vehicle door. The method is referred to as the “Dutch Reach” because it is part of driver education and in common use in the Netherlands, where the simple motion helps reduce preventable crashes and injuries. Integrating the “Dutch Reach” into Hawaii driver education will help change this simple motion and make our streets safer for all.

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

HCR-30

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 3:52:54 PM

Testimony for TRN on 3/21/2018 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am a bicyclist and have had many close encounters with car drivers, none of which have been my fault, and all of which I have swerved to avoid. Please this is needed.

Sincerely,

Susan J. Wurtzburg, Ph.D.

HCR-30

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 10:00:44 PM

Testimony for TRN on 3/21/2018 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
R Siciliano	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I stongly support this bill. By training young drivers to habitually open their car doors with their right hands instead of their left, we teach them to avoid slamming cyclists into oncoming traffic.

How often does a simple and free behavioral change allow us to make our communities safer?

Please pass this legislation to make it safer for cyclists and drivers alike to use our shared roads.

Thank you.

HCR-30

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 12:57:08 PM

Testimony for TRN on 3/21/2018 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support educating drivers on the Dutch Reach method of opening car doors.

HCR-30

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 10:32:16 PM

Testimony for TRN on 3/21/2018 9:45:00 AM

LATE

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

Comments:

Such a simple action could make such a huge difference for improving the awareness of vehicular operators of other roadway users and, most importantly, save lives. As a resident who wishes to commute by bicycle, I strongly support this proposed bill.