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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

HR-24

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 10:29:07 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HR-24

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 3:54:01 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 bicycle rider. Please pass this bill. I have had too many close encounters with Hawaii drivers!

Sincerely,

Susan J. Wurtzburg, Ph.D.

HR-24

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 10:00:18 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.