

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



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

February 7, 2018
1:45 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 225

S.B. 2529
RELATING TO BICYCLES

Senate Committee on Transportation and Energy

The Department of Transportation **supports** S.B. 2529 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.

Testimony By:

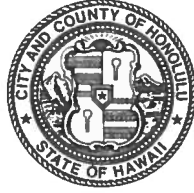
JADE T. BUTAY
INTERIM DIRECTOR

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

IN REPLY REFER TO:

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET · HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 529-3111 · INTERNET: www.honolulu-pd.org



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OUR REFERENCE RN-GR

February 7, 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: Senate Bill No. 2529, Relating to Bicycles

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

The HPD supports the passage of Senate Bill No. 2529, 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 Senate Bill No. 2529.


Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

APPROVED:

Sincerely,


Susan Ballard
Chief of Police

for


Ryan Nishibun, Major
Traffic Division

ADDRESS

3442 Waialae Ave., Suite 1
Honolulu, HI 96816

PHONE

808-735-5756

**FAX**

808-735-7989

EMAIL

bicycle@hbl.org

Testimony Strongly Supporting SB2529

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

Hawaii Bicycling League **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.

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

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 6:59:11 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Donald Child	Hawaii Bicycling League	Support	No

Comments:

A three foot passing zone for cars and trucks overtaking bicyclists is quickly becoming a national standard. I am an avid bicyclist, and have at times been nearly sideswiped by vehicles, both in Hawaii and during a coast-to-coast ride across America. It is not only the vehicles, but the attached rear-view mirrors that sometimes jut out 1-2 feet. If, as a bicyclist, I encounter a road hazard that may be invisible to vehicular traffic, I may have to swerve suddenly. Without the three-foot safety zone, I have no way to avoid hazards, and no way to avoid mirrors extending from the sides of vehicles. Please pass this legislation, and do everything in your power as legislators, to help make the roads safer for bicyclists.

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/2/2018 3:12:29 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Greg Voelkel	Hawaii Bicycle League	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Hawaii State Legislators and Transportation Committee members,

As an avid cyclist and new resident of Honolulu, I strongly support SB2529. I have lived in many states as an officer in the US Air Force and have seen the benefits of the three foot law. The three foot law is a safety standard that when enforced and publicized raises driver awareness of cyclists, provides cyclist with an additional level of safety, and encourages more riding which decreases traffic and pollution. In Florida, 3 ft law signs along shared cycling routes served as a reminder of the safety standard required of drivers. I also saw the law utilized as recourse for cyclists who were unlawfully run off the road by reckless drivers. Passage of this bill will be a step forward for Hawaii to meet the proven standard that has been a success to bicycle safety in many other states. It also displays an effort by the state of Hawaii to encourage cycling which relieves traffic congestion, pollution and promotes health and fitness in our community. Thank you for your consideration on passing SB2529.

v/r,

Greg Voelkel

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 8:42:51 AM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Malia	Hawaii Bicycling League	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha. Please help save lives and pass this bill. People who choose to commute or exercise by bicycle should not have to wonder if that next close call with a motor vehicle will be their last. I am writing in strong support for this crucial and life-saving bill.

Mahalo from the bottom of my heart,

- Malia k Harunaga

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 9:45:19 AM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Pillori	HBL	Support	No

Comments:

I am in favor of this bill. I cycle approximately 150 miles per week and can confirm that many drivers are just not aware that they can cross the line to pass us if it is safe to do so. I think there are many drivers that do not know this. This bill, when passed, will be very helpful in getting the word out to the motorists in Hawaii that it is time to share the road everywhere with cyclists who will be increasing in numbers in the coming years.

Mark Pillori

721-1810

524 Papalani St. Kailua, HI 96734

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/2/2018 3:44:46 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Senators Inouye, Espero, and committee members:

I am submitting this testimony in support of SB2529, requiring a safe passing distance of a bicycle by a motorized vehicle of at least 3 feet. This is a significant measure that will make our roads and highways much safer for bicycle travel. As an older and long-time bike rider on Oahu's roadways, I have had many unsafe experiences with closely passing cars, trucks and busses. To the point of once being clipped by outside mirrors, and once being struck and sent to the emergency room. Drivers need to be given a rule to follow, otherwise they come very close. These drivers are often not attentive to their driving and speeding, which increases the importance of the safe passing rule. I worry about my grandchildren, whom I encourage to walk and bike ride for their mental and physical health.

Even when riding in the shoulder, cars come dangerously close to the line, not realizing that cyclists need to use the full width of the shoulder for maneuvering around debris and rocks, which could put them into the mirror zone of the passing vehicle if too close. Mandating a safe passing distance provide a firm standard which will help reduce the rate at which bicycles are hit by cars, and make the bicycle riding experience in our state a more safe and pleasant one. We all have the right to safe usage of our public rights of way by bike riding or walking, and should not feel compelled to drive short distances in a car for concerns about roadways being unsafe for non-motorized use.

Thank you for supporting this important highway safety measure.

Sincerely yours,

John B. Goody

Kahaluu



Testimony Strongly Supporting SB2529

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

The Maui Bicycling League, a chapter of the Hawaii Bicycling League, gives its support for the Safe Passing bill **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.

Sincerely,

Maui Bicycling League
Saman Dias, **Chair**
2/6/2017



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 3, 2018

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2529, RELATING TO BICYCLES

Aloha Transportation 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 SB2529. 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 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 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

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 9:00:17 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

As a 14 year resident of Kailua Kona and a volunteer at the IRONMAN championships every year, I have noted the issues of bicycle safety first hand. Many of our residents and visitors use bikes to see the area, plus as a requirement to get around. Also, many of our streets and roads don't have satisfactory room for both motor vehicles and bicycles.

So a minimum of 3 ft. needs to be required for safe operation of a bicycle.

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 6:38:10 AM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support SB2529 to make sure motorists understand that 3 feet is the minimum passing distance when passing a bicyclist. I live in Kona, home of the world renowned Ironman, and have been passed by large trucks and tour busses with only inches between us, and it is terrifying. It would be wonderful to educate the public so that they understand they must share the road with cyclists, for all of our safety. Thank you very much for listening.

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 7:46:19 AM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Derinda L Thatcher	Clark Realty Corp/PATH	Support	No

Comments:

Hawaii is a year round haven for sports and outdoor activities. A law like this just makes sense to protect everyone on the road, cyclists and drivers both. How bad does a driver feel if they cause someone on a bicycle harm? Terrible, it haunts you, whether the driver is at fault or not! Raising awareness that everyone has the right to use the road is important. I've heard vehicular drivers saying bicyclist should not be on the roads, they don't understand that we all have the right. Passing a bill like this also let's them know that we have the right to use the roadways. There have been far too many deaths of cyclist in Hawaii, even one fatality is too many. In the interest of safety I ask that you support this bill.

Mahalo!

Derinda Thatcher

February 6, 2018

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2529, 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 SB2529. 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

February 7, 2018

RE: SUPPORT SB2529 Relating to Bicycles

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of SB2529 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.

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. I urge Chair Inouye to pass this bill to the Judiciary Committee.

Regards,

Craig Petty

Craig Petty
Vice President

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Blue Zones Project—Hawaii



SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 7:37:21 AM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mojo Mustapha	Hedonisia Hawaii Sustainable Community	Support	No

Comments:

As a cyclist and also Community Director of an EcoTourist Community, we have had to close our bicycle rental business because it is too dangerous for cyclists on roads in East Hawaii. One cyclist was injured last year from our community. So legislation like this which requires care from drivers is important to help grow a cycling tourist business which allows for greater enjoyment of the natural beauty of Hawaii.

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/3/2018 9:01:35 AM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Miri	Weinstein Pharmacy	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this critically important bill!!

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 9:48:21 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Olson	Pacific Center for Awareness and Bodywork	Support	No

Comments:



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Jennifer Loh, MD
Endocrinologist
Kaiser Permanente

Wendy Loh
Franchise Owner
Juice Plus+

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

Scott R. Nahme
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Commercial Real Estate Lending Division
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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

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Associate Attorney
Cades Schutte, LLP

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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 2, 2018

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

RE: Testimony In Support of SB2529

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 SB 2529 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.

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.

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

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/2/2018 5:51:17 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rob Haak	Insight interAsia LLC	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support 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.

I ride my bicycle to my office in order to save gas, thereby improving the environment, and because it is good exercise. It should be extremely safe to ride a bicycle in Hawaii but it is not. SB2529 will help improve the situation.

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/2/2018 2:58:45 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alexander Mench	C2C engineering	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 8:01:18 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Don Wright	American Red Cross SAF Center	Support	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

3' for safe passing makes sense in terms of safety for both cyclists and drivers. Please support this measure intended to make getting from point A to point B safer for all.

- Sincerely, Don Wright

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/4/2018 9:23:10 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan J. Wurtzburg	American Association of University Women, Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

This is my personal testimony (i.e., not on behalf of AAUW-Hawaii). I ride a bicycle in Hawaii, and am constantly horrified by drivers, who have little consideration for bicyclists, and who drive too fast and too close to me. On numerous occasions, I have had drivers yell out the window at me in an aggressive fashion, when I have been following the road rules and cycling safely.

This bill needs to be passed NOW. We have too many cyclists killed by careless, dangerous drivers.

Committee on Transportation and Energy
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: Wednesday, February 7th, 2018 1:45 pm

Measure: **SB 2529**

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

My name is Kari Benes and I am the current chair of the Hawaii Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) asking for your **support of SB 2529**. 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 SB 2529.¹

Supporting SB 2529, 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>

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 5:50:12 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
heidi better		Support	No

Comments:

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.

26 states and Washington DC have already passed similar laws. We need safer sharing of our roads and increased awareness of drivers. This bill will help create that.

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/2/2018 5:41:21 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Diana Bonsignore	Citizen	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support 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.

For the most part driver's mean well, but unless a clear minimum safe passing distance is established by law, drivers may be unaware of what is actually safe and be left to their own interpretations.

Diana Bonsignore, Waialua 96791

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/2/2018 7:55:17 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Douglas J Brown		Support	No

Comments:

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

In memory of Zach Manago, David Aldridge and other Oahu cyclists who have been killed or injured when hit from behind by motorists while lawfully riding on the right shoulder of the roadway, it is time to join the 26 other states and the District of Columbia to make our roadways, byways and streets safer for both motorists and cyclists. The Safe Passing 3 Foot bill will make it clear to the public that 3 feet is the minimum safe passing distance. Mahalo for considering my testimony in support of SB2529. -Doug Brown, Kapolei HI

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 2:46:43 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Al Castro	LACoFD Retired Fire Captain	Support	No

Comments:

On behalf of safety to all pedestrians, on foot or bicycle, please adhere to this simple policy for the good of All on this beautiful State.

I remain,

Al Castro

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/4/2018 7:56:17 AM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anthony Chang		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.

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

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 9:22:14 AM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Caitlin Cook		Support	No

Comments:

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

I strongly support 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.

I ride my bicycle to work every day, in an effort to stay healthy and save money, and also my work place downtown does not offer parking so I am forced to rely on my bicycle to get to work. There are not reasons why my life should be at risk every time I commute. We need increased driver awareness of safe passing, and safer passing practices. Lets join the 26 other states, and Washington DC, and keep our roads safe for everybody! Especially those of us not abusing fossil fuels, causing traffic, or taking up the limited parking spaces that exist.

MAHALO for your consideration and please, support this bill.

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 5:13:29 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please enact this law! It protects both drivers and cyclists.

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/3/2018 8:39:18 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
patrick ellison		Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support 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.

Why is a Safe Passing law important?

A 3 Feet Safe Passing law makes it clear to motorists how much space they should give when passing a cyclist. Getting motorists to give more space is GIANT in making it safer for cyclists and all user of our roadways. 44% of all cyclist fatalities involve being hit from behind or sideswiped.

Do any other states have Safe Passing laws?

36 states and the District of Columbia have safe passing laws. 26 of the state laws specify 3 feet.

Do any states have laws that specify greater than 3 feet?

Pennsylvania has a Safe Passing 4 Feet law and 3 other states (NH, RI, OR) have laws that require motorists to give 4 or more feet under certain circumstance (for example, New Hampshire's law requires 3 feet at 30mph and an additional foot for every 10 mph increase).

Is the Safe Passing law enforceable?

Yes. There are proven strategies to enforce a 3 Feet Safe Passing law. The cities on Austin and Memphis and the state of Florida have well established and effective programs for enforcing their Safe Passing 3 Feet laws.

Is the only benefit enforcement?

No. Education is a big benefit. A 3 Feet Safe Passing law would make it very clear to everyone what distance is the appropriate minimum when passing a bicyclist. Most states install signage (i.e. "3 Feet It's the Law) that serves as an education and awareness tool.

What if there's not enough space for a motorist to pass and give 3 feet?

Motorists have to wait until it is safe to pass with providing 3 feet space.

In a "no passing" zone can a driver cross the double yellow line to pass a cyclist when safe?

The League of American Bicyclists considers it best practice for the 3-foot Safe Passing law to allow motorists to cross the centerline to pass only if they can safely do so without obstructing oncoming traffic. Eight states (CO, ME, MI, MT, OH, PA, UT, WI) have such laws.

Thank you very much for considering my testimony and support for SB2529.

Patrick M. Ellison, M.D.

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 12:45:40 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lawrence Friedman		Support	Yes

Comments:

It is a necessary safety issue to provide for 3 feet of clearance between a car and a bicycle. I am an avid cyclist and too many times to mention I have had cars, trucks and buses literally come within inches of me as I ride various roads around the island.

I implore you to enhance the complete streets program by passing this bill to provide a safe lane of travel for cyclists.

Riding bicycles in Honolulu is a dangerous proposition. This smart legislation is overdue and very much needed.

Please PASS this bill.

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/2/2018 9:44:03 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

If cars followed a 3 foot minimum passing distance near bicycles, riding would be much less stressful and a whole lot safer. Please make this the law for Hawaii roadways as it already is in many other States. Hawaii is among a handful of states with no defined safe passing distance. <http://www.ncsl.org/research/transportation/safely-passing-bicyclists.aspx>

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 5:35:32 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

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. Many drivers are unaware of what these national and local standards are, and this legislation will make it clearer to all drivers and the police officers who are tasked with protecting us on our roads.

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/3/2018 4:18:39 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gerald Gruber	an individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

I **strongly support SB2529**, 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.

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) and several killed and injured in the Kailua Kona area alone in the past few years.

- 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. Most, but not all, drivers do not want 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. Some mandatory punishment needs to be in effect for those who want to endanger cyclists either intentionally or unintentionally.

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 these comments.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerald A. Gruber

Kailua Kona, HI

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 5:15:23 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jonathan Hayes	n/a	Support	No

Comments:

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***.

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 10:32:33 AM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nathan Hutchinson		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

When I moved to Hawaii in 2004 I was a naive bike rider. I thought you could ride your bike to the North Shore from Kaimuki in a couple of hours. After making the all day trek it wasn't the distance or the kiawe thorns that made me upset. It was all the close calls I had with cars. I had to learn the hard way that the driving culture here was different and dangerous. Drivers would rather put your life at risk to save 1/2 a second then safely pass you. Over the years, I have had so many close calls with cars that I have hung up my bike as decoration on the wall. It's just not worth it. Which is sad. We live on an island chain in the middle of the ocean that ships in our oil and coal. We need to support alternative forms of transportation because it is the responsible thing to do. Tourists are using Biki's. It just makes sense that we make it as safe as possible for bikers. It is a cultural shift that needs to happen. So I am in full support of this bill. Hopefully one day I'll be able to take my bike off the wall and use it to get to work.

Thank you,
Nathan

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/2/2018 5:36:53 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Timothy Jeffryes		Support	No

Comments:

thank you for your time. I have been an avid cyclist all my life. One might say I'm an "expert", having bicycled 5,000 miles across the entire US and community within New York City for 31 years. But no amount of expertise can protect a cyclist from dangerous drivers. It is essential that automobile drivers increase their awareness of bicyclists and that they increase the space given to bicyclists. For far too long, bicycles have been generally viewed by the American public as mere "toys", not worthy of serious consideration by automobile drivers. The truth of the matter is that bicycling promotes good health, reduces traffic congestion and reduces carbon emissions. Far from being toys, bicycles are a serious answer to many of today's urban problems. The three foot rule is very important for a bicyclist's sense of safety. It is very unnerving when a car overtakes a bicyclist at close range. One must have the sense that one has been seen and that care is being taken. What might be a "fender bender" with another automobile could easily turn out to be fatal with a bicycle.

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 7:43:42 AM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

My husband is an avid cyclist, and enjoys riding on the Big Island's roads & highways. He is also passionate about bicycle safety & teaches it to 4th graders around the island. Unfortunately, too many cyclists have been injured & killed by vehicles while riding on our island's roads. I am asking that the 3 foot rule be put into law to help protect our cycling community, including those 4th graders & of course, my husband.

Mahalo nui loa,

Lucia Kaplan

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 9:26:50 AM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janet Lau		Support	No

Comments:

Safe passing at 3 feet is highly needed! I commute by bicycle and realize that so many motorists do not know how to interact with bicyclists. They pass/zoom by me so close that sometimes I feel my life is threatened. Please pass this bill so we can all feel safer on our streets. The public right of way shouldn't be only for cars, but many drivers do not understand that and instead of waiting a few extra seconds, they cause dangerous conditions for bicyclists.

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 5:22:41 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dennis Lynch		Support	Yes

Comments:

I commute to work four miles each day 5 days a week. I wear a helmet, reflector vest & have flashing red light in back and white flashing light in front. I also have a side mirror. I try to follow all bike safety rules. I have been biking to and from work for over 8 years. There have been near hits/misses & close calls on many occasions. I'm doing my best to be safe and respect those in their vehicles. Please pass this bill so I can remain safe and have less stress during my commute.

Mahalo,

Dennis Lynch

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 1:46:35 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kimble McCann		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai and To Whom It May Concern,

As an educator and active citizen, patron, and resident of the City and County of Honolulu, I kindly plead for greater bicycle safety. I personally rely on cycling as a primary means of transportation around town (going to work, running errands, getting exercise, and eventually taking my daughter to preschool). Please consider making Honolulu a safer place to bike and eventually a leader and innovator in the global cycling community.

Mahalo nui loa!

-Kimble

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 3:47:01 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

1132 Bishop St., #602
Honolulu, HI 96813

February 5, 2018

Senate Committee on Transportation and Energy
Hawaii State Legislature

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2529

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

I strongly support SB2529 that requires a three foot separation between a passing vehicle and a bicyclist as it will help avoid accidents on our busy streets.

As a bicycle commuter and father of two cyclists, I urge you to help make our streets safer and encourage a healthy lifestyle.

Respectfully yours,
Anson Okimoto

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 4:36:03 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shirley Prat		Support	No

Comments:

My husband and I are avid bicyclists who feel a 3 Foot Safe Passing Law is long overdue for Hawaii. We moved to the Big Island 8 years ago because there is a sizeable community of bicyclists riding nearly every day (not just around Ironman in October) for the purposes of commuting, exercise and recreation thanks to the great year-around weather we have here. There are also local and visiting cyclists circumnavigating our island along the Belt road because, hands down, it's the best way to see the Big Island. Namely, you see, feel and smell so much more than you would sitting in a car. Several good friends of ours rode around the island just a couple weekends ago and several times a year there are various bike tour groups also riding around the island.

But if bicycling is so great and it makes so much sense health-wise, environmentally and from a tourism point of view, why aren't more people doing it? Ask yourself: **Why aren't YOU riding a bicycle on our beautiful island?**

There are a multitude of reasons non-riders will give but the Number One reason we hear is because they feel it is UNSAFE. But the truth is, bicycling as an activity itself is not what's unsafe, it's the environment that's unsafe for cyclists.

With the current, very limited bicycling infrastructure we have and a limited budget for creating new roads with safer pathways for multi-modal transportation, we believe the best way to start making the environment safer for bicyclists is to enact a 3 Foot (minimum) Safe Passing Law followed by a strong safety education campaign for ALL road users. We know enforcement will be difficult but many of us grew up with no law requiring seat belts to be worn and have seen how a change to the laws requiring wearing of one's seat belt has become second nature when driving a car and saved lives in the end. Similarly, we believe a 3 Foot Safe Passing law could save lives by: (1) making motorists keenly aware of bicyclists' right to use the road, which many are unaware of, and then (2) requiring them to pass them in a much safer manner than currently done with existing laws, which are vague and assume motorists know what it's like to be passed by a car while riding a bike and hence what is a safe passing distance.

Additional verbiage in the law to allow motorists to cross over double yellow lines when safe to do so would also be a big help so motorists can pass cyclists with the minimum

safe distance and yet not be forced to break a traffic law in doing so. Eight states (CO, ME, MI, MT, OH, PA, UT, WI) already have such additional verbiage in their laws.

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 8:09:01 AM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

My family, including my 10 year old daughter, commutes by bicycle. Please help keep her safe by passing this bill.

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 2:43:14 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
gregory robison		Support	No

Comments:

I am a commuting cyclist, a recreational cyclist, a current member of Hawaii Bicycle League, and a former board member of Kauai Path Advocacy Group. I am a registered voter in 96814. Over 50 yrs of riding on roads I have personally witnessed and experienced tens of thousands of vehicles passing on the left. I can state unequivocally, the chance of collision resulting with injury or loss of life is in direct proportion to the distance of the vehicle passing.

For the sake of common sense and the safety of the thousands of cyclists on the road every day, please vote for the 3' passing distance bill. This should automatically happen but it doesn't. A reasonable motorist already yields to vulnerable road users because it is the natural and right thing to do. Keiki, Kupuna, disabled, and bicyclists all fall in this category. Other drivers like to see how close they can get for sport. There are more safe and respectful drivers out there than not. The few aggressive, reckless, careless, distracted drivers cause the disproportionate number of horrific auto/ bicycle accidents.

Case in point the terrible and reckless driver who preventably mowed down innocent Lectie Altman on Tanatalus not 2 weeks ago. We need a law to protect good and vulnerable road users from the 3,000- 5,000 pound steel projectiles that narrowly miss them on every bike ride through the neighborhood. We need to regulate and enforce the disregard these self centered drivers (thankfully a minority) for other road users. Anything short of that will not get the point across or have any effect on these dangerous drivers. Please pass this bill.

Respectfully Submitted,

K. Gregory Robison

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/4/2018 9:21:29 AM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Rogers		Support	No

Comments:

I support SB2529! Under the existing law vehicles must give enough space between vehicles to pass safely on the left. Due to the size and weight of a bicycle the forces of a SUV or bus passing at a high rate of speed can be jarring and can cause the cyclist to crash. By adding a specified distance to pass cyclist in the statute will create a better awareness to safety and sharing the road. One of the indicators for improving community and social well-being under the Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Plan is to measure the percentage of total non-motorized trips. Creating an environment where people perceive safer streets for cycling will greatly improve this indicator and help Hawaii meet its goals to a sustainable future.

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 12:03:58 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
laurent	rouaud	Support	No

Comments:

I support the proposition. Biking has become extremely dangerous on the island of hawaii with the texting, phone and increase traffic. Too many people have died.

laurent rouaud

Michael Traub, ND, FABNO
Kona Integrative Oncology
Lokahi Health Center
75-169 Hualalai Road, Suite 301
Kailua Kona, Hawaii 96740
Phone 808-329-2114
Fax 808-326-2871
mtraubnd@me.com

Testimony in Support of SB2529

February 5, 2018

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

I am Michael Traub ND, a triathlete and naturopathic physician. I train regularly on the roads of West Hawaii. This past year we have had a dramatic increase in the number of fatalities and serious injuries from cyclists being struck by vehicles, particularly on the Queen Kaahumanu Highway.

That this bill did not pass the legislature last year is a travesty, and those legislators who failed to move it through their committees have the loss of lives and blood on their hands.

Although passage of this bill will be difficult to enforce, it will undoubtedly create more public awareness of the importance of safe and vigilant driving on our roads. And it will bring Hawaii up to the standards of safe driving laws in the majority of other states in the U.S.

There can be no serious opposition to a bill such as this.

I urge you to ensure its passage.

Mahalo.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Traub", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael Traub ND

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/3/2018 12:08:26 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephen L Tschudi		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Transportation Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Espero, and esteemed members of the Committee on Transportation and Energy: I very strongly support 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.

I commute to work daily by bicycle. I am immensely grateful that designated bike lanes have been put in place for a good deal of my route, on Wai‘alae and 10th Aves in KaimukÄ«. But even with the designated lane, motorists still seem to be quite unaware/uncaring about bicyclists. Having a Safe Passing law that meets emerging national consensus on how states and municipalities should regulate how cars pass bikes seems to be a common-sense proposition. And one of the lives saved could be my own!

Thank you for your attention. Please vote for SB2529.

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/3/2018 12:30:16 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

Similar bills have become law in 32 states. Prosecuting attorneys, police, and state departments have voiced support. Enforcement is possible, as studies in Florida and two large cities have proven.

A main purpose of the law is a) clarification, what safe passing is, since msny motorists are unsure, anc b) education of the public, how a safe passing distance can reduce fatalities and injuries. This is not about putting a burden on motorists, or delegating blame, but providing clarification.

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/4/2018 12:40:26 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am 53 years old. I have been riding a bicycle on Oahu for both transportation and pleasure, on a daily basis since the early 90's. Back in those days drivers were much more likely to insure adequate distance between me on my bicycle and their vehicle when passing. Over the years that has changed dramatically. These days a driver who does voluntarily insure adequate distance is much more rare. It is much more likely that a motorist will pass me regardless of how close to me they may need to be to get around me. By and large, motorists make little to no effort to insure my safety, their only concern, based on their actions, seems to be get around me without having to slow down or alter their path, at all costs. It is routine, on a daily basis, to have extremely close calls, motorists passing me close enough that I could reach out and touch their vehicle. It is often necessary for me to take defensive action to avoid contact with their vehicle. This bill would at least provide me and my fellow cyclists some legal protection should it be necessary. Over the years I have been hit by motor vehicles on four occasions. As a teen (in California) I was hit by a car who ran a stop sign. Years later, in Hawaii Kai I was hit by a car that tried to make a left turn in front of me. Four years ago in Waikiki I was hit by a tour bus that passed me and then moved into my lane before it was completely past me. Two years ago, as I was riding home from work on King and Punahou a driver hit me intentionally, from behind, because, as he stated, I was in his way and he could not get around me. He told me: "you should have been hugging the curb". It did not bother him at all that he used his thousands of pound of vehicle to "move" me, a couple hundred pounds of person and bike, out of his way. So, the dangers from motorists have increased and we as cyclists need all the protection we can get. This bill is just common sense. Give a cyclist some room when you pass, one would think that no one would intentionally put someone else in harm's way but unfortunately it happens regularly. This bill should be passed without reservation. It is the right thing to do, it is the reasonable thing to do and unfortunately, since motorists no longer do so voluntarily, it is the necessary thing to do. Please pass SB2529. Give those of us who ride bicycles some legal measure of safety. Thank you.

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/2/2018 3:14:27 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jacobby Young		Support	No

Comments:

I am a frequent cyclist and bike commuter. I believe that SB2529 will make our roads more safe and it will create consistency with national standards and the Hawaii Driver's Manual. I want to have injuries and accidental deaths to become a memory of the past as more and more people opt for alternative transportation.

Mahalo nui loa.

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 5:54:35 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maureen Garry		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Cycling is one of the best ways to enjoy Hawaii's natural beauty while lessening traffic, getting great exercise and socializing with friends. I used to cycle a lot on the mainland, even commuting short distances when I could.

Since moving to Hawaii island I won't ride anywhere other than around my neighborhood, and certainly would never commute, because the roads are too unsafe. Many drivers don't understand what it's like to ride on a narrow shoulder perched on two wheels, and pass dangerously close to cyclists. We already know many riders have lost their lives in careless accidents.

I strongly encourage you to pass SB2529 so we can move Hawaii toward being a safer environment for cyclists.

Mahalo,

Maureen Garry

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 5:58:43 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am an avid cyclist and have witnessed first hand how dangerous it is for cyclists (as well as drivers of cars) to pass within 3 feet of cyclists on the roadways. Cars often "brush" us going at high speeds without slowing down or allowing adequate room for us on the roads. I have encountered cars passing me on a double yellow with a blind corner with oncoming traffic as they want to "beat the cyclist" across the narrow bridge or roadway, which often do not have bike lanes.

Many bike lanes are overgrown or have glass thrown on to them by people who drink and throw their bottles out the window. This will cause the cyclist to move over to the roadway if there is not adequate safe passage for the bike.

A three foot law makes it safe for cyclists as well as drivers, as it allows adequate room to pass SAFELY.

I live in Maine part of the year, and there is a 3 foot law there. It works very well, and Maine is one of the safest places to ride a bike in this country

Julie Houck Gilliland

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 6:32:25 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please support this bill and help to make our streets safer for bicyclists as well as drivers. This law will make drivers more aware of bicyclists and will help to prevent accidents and deaths. I know that everyone was is interested in safety. Please give your support to this bill

Sincerely

Dorothy Sunio

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 6:55:20 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am a bicyclist and ride on the streets of O'ahu. I have been passed very closely by speeding cars. It is very scary because I can't see what is coming behind me and usually have nowhere on the road to move further to the right. I strongly support the 3 foot rule. Having that rule will make the roads safer for all. Thanks, Melanie Killam

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 7:28:00 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

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

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 8:02:16 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Peter Wizinowich		Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for proposing and supporting this bill. I and many of my friends are cyclists. It is a way to enjoy our beautiful island while getting exercise. I have also been a regular bike commuter in the past and would like to return to this routine for environmental reasons, especially if the commute could be made a little safer. Finding ways to make cycling safer in Hawaii is important for the safety of our children, fellow Hawaii citizens, visitors to our Islands, and the environment.

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 8:04:36 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tyler Johnston		Support	No

Comments:

I am a commuter to work and the quickest way to work requires me to use roads without bike lanes.

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 8:10:14 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

I would like to testify in favor of SB2529, and let it be known that I strongly support the bill and its enforcement by the police and courts. I have been cycling in Hawaii since 1990, on Maui, Oahu, the Big Island and Lanai, and have had more incidents than I can recall with motorists passing too closely. I know many people who have given up riding on Hawaii's roads because they feel that not only is it too dangerous, but that there is no legal recourse if they are struck.

I have also ridden extensively in states and countries (Maine, France and Italy) that have similar laws that are enforced, and the drivers are much more careful around cyclists and there are far fewer incidents and accidents involving cyclists.

In addition to passing the bill, it is critical that the police, the counties of Hawaii, the state, and nonprofits use signage, enforcement, and awareness campaigns to make sure the Safe Passing law(s) actually make the streets safer.

Thank you for considering my testimony, and let's all work to make Hawaii's roads safer and more accessible for everyone.

Aloha,
Andrew Dunne

23 Akea Place, Maui, HI, 96790

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 8:13:40 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bob Smith		Support	No

Comments:

Please pass SB 2529. It will save bicyclists' lives and help motorists avoid accidents. It will help prevent the harrassment of bicyclists. A 3 foot law already applies to passing other vehicles so why shouldn't it apply to bikes too.. Many other states already have enacted this safety measure.

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 8:26:44 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

As a frequent bicycle rider, for both daily transport (commuting) and for recreation, I strongly support SB2529.

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 passing clearance, SB2529 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

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 8:36:53 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ME Smith		Support	No

Comments:

This will greatly improve safety for bicyclists and protect riders from harrassment by motorists who try to run them off the road.

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 8:38:37 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kim		Support	No

Comments:

I commute in Nuuanu by bike and strongly SUPPORT this bill. Many times I've been in danger or forced to the sidewalk by drivers who get too close and are aggressive.

Thank you for your kokua.

Kim

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 9:25:37 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erik Molina		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha State Senate,

I have been a resident of Honolulu since January 2010, have over 20,000 miles by bike on roads all over Oahu, and commute from my residence in Waikiki to Pearl Harbor multiple times per week. I strongly support SB2529 because it will make cycling safer and is the national standard. I routinely get 'buzzed' (passed extremely close and fast by automotive vehicles) on my commute to work along Nimitz Highway. I have been in situations on Nimitz Highway where I could literally reach out and touch a passing semi truck. I have been the victim of numerous road rage incidents against cyclist and just as concerning, of dangerously unaware drivers. This measure will go a long way in making the roads a safer place for cyclist by giving law enforcement a mechanism to hold aggressive or dangerously unaware drivers accountable for their actions, in turn making the roads a safe place. Moreover, it will bring Honolulu in line with policies that make sense that are already implemented in other cities similar in population and density throughout the country, and has the potential to influence the community to ride a bike in lieu of driving a car which has nothing but positive consequences starting at the individual level all the way through the community level. SB2529 has my strongest possible supporting position.

-Erik Molina

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 11:08:23 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please support this simple bill. Having a clear law will help law abiding citizens drive safely. This will prevent collisions. Knowing what to do is the first step.

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 4:25:37 AM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
john shade		Support	No

Comments:

The creation of this law and the education of the public about it will greatly enhance the public's recognition that cyclist's have a right to the road and the space to ride safely. Currently, I find that motorists do not respect this right which leads to dangerous situations that cause accidents. I know people in states where the law was put into place and upon its enactment noticed a much safer attitude of drivers toward cyclists. The law worked.

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 6:43:00 AM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Richard Wang		Support	No

Comments:

Hi, I support this bill to define 3 feet as the minimum safe passing distance of a cyclist by a car. I ride to and from work every day on my bike. When I travel from UH toward downtown, I ride over the McCully bridge and turn down Young St. The reason I take Young is because on King St., on all the many driveways feeding it, drivers are more accustomed to looking right for auto traffic, or both ways at the sidewalk for pedestrian traffic. They are not used to looking IN the road, to the left, for bicycle traffic. As for Beretania, that street is used by easily fifty times more cars than Young St., all of them passing me on the left, and I have to exit turning left, so that is not fun. Young St. allows me to ride along the sharrows, fully in the lane, where few cars travel, but in a place where most other drivers are checking for traffic. But I usually get at least one car that passes me every morning, and sooner or later a driver will pass me with less than 3 feet, and it does concern me when this happens, for my safety.

I recently did 2 rides where a 3' clearance would have really helped. I rode up the Pali to the lookout, and there are substantial sections of that road where you cannot ride off into the housing developments on the right and parallel the Pali, and yet there is not a wide right shoulder on the Pali. We deliberately went early Saturday, so there wasn't alot of traffic, but I was very nervous every time a car passed us. I never see other cyclists do this ride, probably for safety reasons. The other ride I did was up Tantalus, where I'm sure you are aware a cyclist recently got hit (head on) by a driver that was drifting. We got passed a few times, by reasonable drivers that let us move to the shoulder before passing us with good clearance. By driver education I mean that I don't think many drivers understand that the sharrows indicates WHERE in the lane the cyclist should be. They think it only indicates that cyclists use the road as a preferred route, but that they should be as close to the right side as possible. So driver education can be improved there. I believe a clear, unambiguous clearance requirement, PLUS DRIVER EDUCATION, will help improve safety and reduce injury and death. I consider myself lucky that I have ridden to work for 2 years without an accident, and I would like to keep it that way. Thank you.

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 6:47:55 AM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wil Friesen	coffee farmer	Support	No

Comments:

I live in Kona, and strongly support SB 2529. I think the minimum 3 foot passing law for passing cyclists would be one more piece of protective legislation to encourage safer riding on our highways. I understand this is a law in many other states and would like to see this law enacted here in Hawaii, too.

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 6:59:38 AM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachael S	Self	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB2529 to clarify that 3 feet is the minimum safe distance that a motorist should provide when overtaking a bicyclist. As an avid cyclist respectful of all road users and uses, I do not wish to impede a driver's road usage. But nor do I wish to be caught between a car passing too close on the left and a parked car on the right. Too many cyclists have lost their lives when those parked cars on the right open their doors and push them off of their bike and under the wheels of the cars behind them. Let's make sure no more such deaths occur in Hawaii.

Testimony in Support of SB2529

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

As an Avid Cyclist over a couple decades, I have watched as my friends have been injured and killed on Oahu Roadways. As part of a group of five middle aged riders trying to stay healthy, we cycled together every Sunday, one of our group was struck by a driver and is now a paraplegic. We all pitched in to retrofit his house with a ramp while other trade professionals renovated his shower to allow for his wheel chair. His wife Sharyn is a diminutive lady who is now struggling to move him in and out of bed. The insurance money from the accident was not sufficient to cover the millions in medical costs. We spent many Sundays riding to the hospitals to visit with him and let him know he was missed. The cost to society is not worth the cost of delaying legislation on this matter.

This bill would raise awareness on the driving exam so that every new driver would now be quizzed on the safe driving distance. A comedian on the TV said that if we walked the way we drive we would be confronted and removed from the line. If a line was at the bank and someone walked in and went to the front of the line, he would get an earful from the others however drivers do it all the time. Drivers have swerved around me to quickly apply the brakes, so they could turn in to church in Waipahu a couple of different times, so I am extra cautious descending the hill at St Joseph's church.

I have been asked at Seven Eleven Haleiwa why cyclists don't ride on the sidewalk by a well-intentioned elderly gentleman. I tried to be the good ambassador and explain that at the speed we travel it is dangerous for everyone to be on the side walk with poles and ramps for each of the driveways. Sidewalks are for pedestrians who could be hit by a fast traveling cyclist. Education and legislation would reduce the frequency of conflict between motorists and cyclists.

As a scoutmaster for a local military Troop 180, I taught the Cycling merit badge. I picked the routes carefully and tried to ride on base whenever possible however it is not possible to ride the distances on base required by the merit badge. I felt that I was putting myself at terrible risk because if a twelve-year-old boy lost focus and slid on some sand in front of a car (which happened) or was injured by a car I would be liable. There are cyclists of all ages on our roadways and we must ensure that they are all safe while riding.

On one particular occasion, I was frightened to death by a tour bus operator who was tailgating our group while descending on one of our hills at 35 mph. We were going the speed of the other cars to our left. He beeped at us and tried to force us to pull over to let him by. Our group was taking the lane as there was no shoulder or bike lane for us to be in. We could not comply. At the stop light at the bottom of the hill, I wanted to confront him, but I chose not to for fear of road rage.

While I was riding in Portland, I was amazed at the smooth road surfaces which were so well maintained and the drivers who were always so courteous and patient with cyclists. When I ride the C&O train trail in Washington DC or Rock Creek parkway on Sundays after they close some of the roads to motorists, I realize what our cycling community could be like here in Hawaii. They are communities for us to emulate.

At this juncture, I will end my testimony here and request that you pass SB2529.

Respectfully yours,

Michael Ulm

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 8:36:40 AM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Doug Fitch Schwartzsmith	Schwartzsmith	Support	No

Comments:

Passing this bill will save lives! Its that simple. Thank you.

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 9:00:43 AM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Huffman		Support	No

Comments:

Hello, Senators:

I am pleased to offer my **SUPPORT** for **SB2529**. This bill would afford safety to the many bicyclists traversing our streets. I am an avid cyclist and would feel safer knowing this law existed. Our roads are narrow and somewhat treacherous for cyclists and this bill would help aid them. This basic safety law, which already exists in the majority of states, is a simple way to help ensure that we can all share our roads safely.

Let's be clear though, the law alone cannot solve this problem. Drivers need to be educated and the police would need to enforce this law to make it effective. If this law is passed we may need to revise laws about crossing a "no passing" zone to afford 3-foot clearance. The League of American Bicyclists considers it best practice for the 3-foot Safe Passing law to allow motorists to cross the centerline to pass only if they can safely do so without obstructing oncoming traffic. Eight states (CO, ME, MI, MT, OH, PA, UT, WI) have such laws.

Respectfully,
Brian Huffman
Honolulu, HI 96822

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 9:20:13 AM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
june chee		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha - My name is June Chee and I am a resident of Honolulu (1888 Kalakaua Ave, 96815). I submit testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of this bill to keep our roads safer for both drivers and cyclists. As bicycling is my main mode of transportation to get to and from work and daily activities, I experience first hand the safety issues that we have in our streets. In November my sister was hit by a taxi driver on her left hand side as the taxi overtook her in a merge lane and hit her with the right side of his vehicle. My sister was bruised, scraped, and terrified to get back on her bike for weeks after.

We are making great progress to become a bike friendly city but enforcing simple measures like the one proposed in this bill will make huge strides in keeping all residents of Honolulu (bikers, drivers, and peds) safe.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

June C Chee

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 9:37:55 AM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

I, Sery Berhanu, strongly support SB2529, 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. SB2529 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

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 10:24:52 AM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Richard Merschdorf		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 10:27:04 AM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anthony P Sedillo		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha -

I have been riding bicycles for over 40 years on the mainland and here in Hawaii. Every time I am riding on a street where vehicle traffic is traveling faster than 25 mph it can be dangerous when vehicles whiz by me without regard for my safety.

Variables that make a vehicle passing a bicyclist dangerous include: Contact- from passing too close. Bicycle tire blowout- causing bike to swerve into path of vehicle passing too close. Wind- pushing bicyclists into a parked vehicle, railing, wall, etc;. or pulling a bicyclist into a moving vehicle.

Please pass SB2529 to give awareness to vulnerable bicyclists, and a means to punish unsafe, aggressive motorist displaying blatant disregard to bicyclists safety.

Mucho Mahalo,

- Anthony Sedillo

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 11:54:24 AM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

We are writing to express our strong support for the Safe Passing 3 Foot SB2529. We feel it's very important for motorists to be more aware of cyclists on the roads and provide cyclists with a safe distance of separation.

On the evening of December 17, 2010, our son, Zach, went on a ride around the island with 30 of his friends. Later in the evening, we received a phone call from my son's friend and the only words I remember were "Zach was clipped". Although Zach was wearing his helmet and had the proper lighting, he was hit from behind and did not survive the crash.

Zach was always afraid of being hit or side-wiped. As parents, it is our hope is that no one else will lose their life prematurely or tragically. We often wonder if it would have made a difference if we had a law in place.

We sincerely request your consideration and strongly believe that the Safe Passing 3 Foot bill will reduce careless and reckless driving behaviors and serve as a reminder that the roads must be shared. Thank you for your consideration.

Dennis and Daphne Manago

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 12:18:00 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

I fully support SB2529 and encourage all lawmakers to pass this bill. As a regular bicycle commuter I rely on sharing our roadways for my bicycle commute from Mililani to Red Hill. MY LIFE IS AT STAKE WHEN CARS PASS TOO CLOSE!. I encourage the senate to think of "the little guy" and consider the "minority" which is, in essence, the cyclist. We have a right to choose cycling as a means of transporation which should include safe passage.

I am an active member of the Hawaii Bicyling League and encourage any lawmaker to give me a ring to chat about this subject. While I cant make the hearing due to work committments, I would like my voice to be heard.

Aloha, Scott Snider 808-220-5395

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 1:51:04 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

As both a cyclist and a motorist, I strongly support SB2529. In adopting the "Safe Passing - 3 foot" measure, Hawaii will join most other states in creating safer roadways for us all.

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 1:55:05 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha. I am writing in support of SB2529. It will be a benefit to cyclists and motorists alike. For cyclists it provides a standard that will, with time, become observed by the average, courteous motorists. For drivers who don't fall in that category, it will provide a disincentive for continued dangerous behavior. And for the small group of timid, letter-of-the-law drivers who pass closely only because they fear crossing the center line, this will inform them that brushing cyclists is not an acceptable option. Too many cyclists are being injured and killed on Hawaii's roads. This is an important step in the right direction. Mahalo.

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 2:26:42 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
JONATHAN LOTT		Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Espero, and members of the committee,

My name is Jonathan Lott and I live a "carless" existence from my home adjacent to Ala Wai Blvd. in the center of Waikiki. I have been using my bike as my primary transportation for over 13 years (when I sold my car). In my experience (I am also a Commercial-License Motorcoach Operator) there is insufficient appreciation on the part of most motor vehicle operators of how scary (and dangerous) it is to overtake a cyclist at close range, especially when there is a large speed differential or when the cyclist is inexperienced and not used to the potential hazards, such as many of our Bike Share users and college students living and/or working in Waikiki. I use my smartphone in continuous video recording mode, mounted on my helmet, as a sort of "dash cam" for the same reasons the police use video cams. Usually the camera calms drivers in "road rage" mode and acts as a deterrent to violence as well. I also eliminate the most common defense lawyers can use to get a driver off when they strike a cyclist, "I never saw him/her" by having many types of lights and reflectors including daytime bright blinking white lights that catch attention in mirrors as I use the often too-narrow bike lanes (such as along the Ala Wai canal) and streets marked with Sharrows, the meaning of which has not been adequately taught to the public, including cyclists. Nevertheless hostility/frustration is sometimes manifested by drivers intentionally "buzzing" me as they pass too close or when they shouldn't even try, when I am avoiding potholes, debris, and cracks and other street features more prevalent at the right side of streets and in the bike lanes. Since I commute alone by bike to Kalihi for work and everywhere else I need to go, I have a lot of stories to tell and nearly every day I could save video evidence that would scare you. I encourage all riders be nice, know and follow the law, and to wear cameras or use their phones like I do, and I particularly support this bill. Fear of being hit is the main reason more people don't ride a bike. Would you rather I was sitting in the gridlock with you, spewing exhaust, in my car or SUV? Consider the positive economic impact if Waikiki and Honolulu in general were known as pedestrian/bike-friendly destinations, not to mention the lessening of noise and exhaust.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 3:26:06 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jim Brewer		Support	No

Comments:

Most roads and highways have a lane for bike riding along the side of the road but motorists still drive too close to the bike riders. It would be great to have a three foot passing rule to keep the bike riders safe.

February 5, 2017

Aloha Senators

Re: SB 2529 - allowing 3 Feet for Safer Streets
Room 225
February 7, 2018
1:45 pm

I am encouraging your support for SB 2529 to allow a 3-foot buffer between motor vehicles and bicyclists.

As a lifelong bicyclist, and after being sent to the hospital twice by motorists who hit me from behind, I can testify to the safety need for this bill. I'll spare you the scary details and stories about weeks in the hospital and the months of amnesia, but I am lucky to be alive and other pedestrians have lost their lives on the roadways.

I hope that you share a vision of a bicycle friendly Hawai`i. Creating a safe environment for bicyclists helps create a healthier population, a human-friendly environment (rather than car-oriented), and allows a more socio-economic form of transportation to thrive.

Please vote AYE on SB 2529!

Ann C. Peterson



205 Vineyard Street, APT 201
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813
808-987-0185

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 5:08:37 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
RC Blake		Support	No

Comments:

I strongly urge Hawaii to joins the others states in the union to provide bicyclists safe passage

Randall Blake

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 11:46:28 PM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am a licensed and registered motor vehicle user of Honolulu's roads to transport myself to and from work, home, and for day to day living. I am also an avid road cyclist. In an effort to maintain a healthier lifestyle and to help minimize my harmful footprint on the environment, I choose to commute at least two (typically more) days each week from home to work. During my free time, I can be found riding my bicycle along the many roads and communities of Oahu.

From my arrival here, the dangerous road conditions and unfriendly driver-etiquette towards bicyclists has tested my resolve and made me question my commitment to the sport, challenging my preference of using alternative means to commute. The lack of safe infrastructure along most of Oahu's roadways, coupled with aggressive and often openly road-possessive automobile users have repeatedly been experienced while on my bicycle. I have experienced close-calls, purposefully timed honking of car horns or shouting by vehicle occupants, and have been harassed almost regularly.

Passage of a mandated 3-foot bill would add yet another measure of protection and security to the more vulnerable users of Honolulu's roadways. Within the past few years, I have directly benefitted from the many City & State improvements, such as road diets, restriping efforts, protected bike lanes and sharrows. The continued movement towards complete streets coupled with the passage of a bill such as this, brings closer to reality a future where I can leave the car at home, opting instead to ride my bicycle, and thereby help decrease traffic congestion, gas consumption, pollution.

SB-2529

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 9:05:57 AM

Testimony for TRE on 2/7/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Guillermo Jaramillo	bicyclist	Support	No

Comments:

I ride bicycle to work and every day I feel endangered by vehicles passing too close to me.

Please approve the ISB2529

Thanks



Sustainable Transportation Coalition of Hawai'i

A U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY CLEAN CITIES COALITION

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND ENERGY

Feb. 7, 2018, 1:45 P.M.

Room 225

(Testimony is 1 page long)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2529

Aloha Transportation 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 SB2529**, 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.

SB2529 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. If you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please contact Shem Lawlor at (808) 954-6143 or shem@blueplanetfoundation.org.