

SB 663

RELATING TO HIGHWAY SAFETY.

Increases the fines for speeding violations occurring in a school zone or construction area.



Testimony by:
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IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

February 8, 2017
2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 225

S.B. NO. 663
RELATING TO HIGHWAY SAFETY

Senate Committee on Transportation and Energy

The Department of Transportation (DOT) strongly **supports** S.B. 663 relating to highway safety. The bill increases the fines for speeding violations occurring in a school zone or construction area.

During calendar year 2014, speeding was a contributing factor in 38 percent of Hawaii's motor vehicle fatalities. In 2015, that number increased to 43 percent. Preliminary state data for 2016 indicates that the trend is continuing upwards, with 44 percent of fatalities involving speed.

In addition, according to 2011 statewide data, 172 major traffic crashes were reported in the area of schools and 151 major traffic crashes were reported in the area of work zones.

County police department statistics from 2012 through 2016 also reveal that speeding in school zones and construction areas is a problem:

- Oahu – 1,047 citations issued
- Kauai – 308 citations issued
- Hawaii Island – 368 citations issued
- Maui – 937 citations issued

These statistics are alarming because the speed of a vehicle is a major factor in the severity of the injury. When a pedestrian is struck, the likelihood of death increases faster than the percentage increase in vehicle speed. According to a study conducted by United Kingdom's DOT, a pedestrian hit at 20 miles per hour has a 5 percent chance of sustaining fatal injuries, but a pedestrian hit at 40 miles per hour has an 85 percent chance of sustaining fatal injuries. Additionally, a drivers' field of vision becomes narrower the faster they drive. Thus, at higher speeds, drivers are less likely to see a pedestrian and are even less likely able to stop in time to avoid striking a pedestrian.

Around schools, children are vulnerable to pedestrian crashes that may result in serious injuries and/or death because:

- Their height makes it difficult for them to see drivers and for drivers to see them.
- They have difficulty judging a car's speed and distance and they believe that cars can stop instantly.
- They may dart out into the roadway, sometimes between parked cars, especially if chasing after a ball or running to catch a bus.

Even teens are at risk for pedestrian crashes, since they are more distracted by mobile electronic devices and peers, rather than watching traffic conditions. According to an October 2016 report by Safe Kids Worldwide, "Alarming Dangers in School Zones," "there has been a 13 percent increase in the pedestrian death rate for 12-19 year olds since 2013," and "there are five teen pedestrian deaths every week in the United States."

Speeding in construction zones is a concern due to the added dangers of construction equipment; changes in roadway design and markings; and increased pedestrian activity from construction/maintenance workers. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reported that, in 2014, speeding was involved in 29 percent of fatal crashes that occurred in construction/maintenance zones nationally.

For the reasons stated above, HDOT believes that tripling the current fines for speeding in school zones or construction areas will serve as a deterrent for speeding and will lead to safer traffic conditions for our vulnerable roadway users.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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THE HONORABLE LORRAINE R. INOUE, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2017
State of Hawai`i

February 8, 2017

RE: S.B. 663; RELATING TO HIGHWAY SAFETY.

Chair Inouye, Vice-Chair Dela Cruz and members of the Senate Committee on Transportation, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City & County of Honolulu (“Department”) submits the following testimony in opposition to S.B. 663.

The purpose of S.B. 663 is to increase the fines for speeding in a school zone or construction area, from \$250 to \$750.

While we understand there are significant potential dangers and risks associated with this type of behavior, we do not believe that higher fines are necessarily the answer to deterring or educating the public about this. Based on our experience, we anticipate that the proposed increase—three times the current fine for this offense—would force a lot more cases to trial, which would add more congestion to the current voluminous caseloads at District Court, and potentially overwhelm the courts and our Department’s resources.

For all of the foregoing reasons, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu opposes the passage of S.B. 663. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Hawai'i Construction Alliance

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February 3, 2017

The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
and members
Senate Committee on Transportation and Energy
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: Support for the Intent of SB663, Relating to Highway Safety

Dear Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and members:

The Hawai'i Construction Alliance is comprised of the Hawai'i Regional Council of Carpenters; the Laborers' International Union of North America, Local 368; the Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' Union, Local 630; International Union of Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers, Local 1; and the Operating Engineers, Local Union No. 3. Together, the member unions of the Hawai'i Construction Alliance represent 15,000 working men and women in the basic crafts of Hawai'i's construction industry.

We **support the intent of SB663**, relating to highway safety, which increases the fines for speeding violations occurring in a school zone or construction area.

Our unions' top priority is the health and safety of our members. During the past several legislative sessions, we have been active in pursuing legislation to protect the health and safety of construction workers at their job sites. We are pleased to see that SB663 adds to this very important conversation.

We encourage your committee to advance this measure to continue discussion on to ensure that our members are not endangered by reckless drivers and others who would harm their health and safety.

Mahalo,



Tyler Dos Santos-Tam
Executive Director
Hawai'i Construction Alliance
execdir@hawaiiconstructionalliance.org

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 4, 2017 12:53 PM
To: TRE Testimony
Cc: jamesjtz@aol.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB663 on Feb 8, 2017 14:00PM*

SB663

Submitted on: 2/4/2017

Testimony for TRE on Feb 8, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 225

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

Comments:

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Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB663 on Feb 8, 2017 14:00PM*

SB663

Submitted on: 2/3/2017

Testimony for TRE on Feb 8, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 225

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

Comments:

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Cc: victor.ramos@mpd.net
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SB663

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for TRE on Feb 8, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 225

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

Comments:

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