
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING CROSSWALK COUNTDOWN TIMERS BE REPLACED WITH
CONVENTIONAL PEDESTRIAN-CONTROL SIGNALS REFERRED TO IN
SECTION 291C-33, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES, TO IMPROVE
PEDESTRIAN AND VEHICULAR SAFETY.

1 WHEREAS, forty-three pedestrians were killed statewide in
2 2018, the highest total in at least fifteen years; and

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4 WHEREAS, despite increased safety awareness campaigns and
5 traffic enforcement, pedestrian deaths outnumbered vehicle
6 occupant deaths statewide in 2018 for the first time since at
7 least 2003, according to Department of Transportation data; and

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9 WHEREAS, although well-intentioned and successful as a
10 pedestrian aid, crosswalk countdown timers have been found to
11 have adverse, unintended effects on vehicular traffic, according
12 to recent academic journals and studies; and

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14 WHEREAS, some intersections with countdown timers recorded
15 an increase in vehicle collisions because drivers increasingly
16 sped up through intersections as the timers counted down to zero
17 and the traffic signal changed; and

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19 WHEREAS, crosswalk timers often create unsafe situations as
20 pedestrians frequently enter crosswalks illegally when the
21 blinking red hand and countdown timer begins which causes
22 vehicles to stack up and make dangerous turns after the traffic
23 light has turned red; and

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25 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that replacing crosswalk
26 countdown timers with conventional pedestrian-control signals
27 will improve pedestrian and vehicular safety; and



1 WHEREAS, section 291C-33, Hawaii Revised Statutes, which
 2 mandates when a pedestrian may proceed across a roadway and be
 3 given the right-of-way by vehicles, only refers to conventional
 4 pedestrian-control signals with either a "Walk" or walking
 5 person designation with no mention of countdown timers; and
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7 WHEREAS, section 291C-33, Hawaii Revised Statutes, only
 8 refers to conventional pedestrian-control signals of "Don't
 9 Walk" or an upraised palm designation to prohibit pedestrians
 10 from crossing and does not refer to countdown timers; and
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12 WHEREAS, the Legislature fully supports conforming with the
 13 conventional pedestrian-control signals referred to in the
 14 Hawaii Revised Statutes and making crosswalks safer for
 15 pedestrians and vehicles; now, therefore,
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17 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 18 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
 19 2019, that the State Department of Transportation and the City
 20 and County of Honolulu Department of Transportation Services are
 21 requested to replace all crosswalk countdown timers with
 22 conventional pedestrian-control signals referred to in section
 23 291C-33, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to improve pedestrian and
 24 vehicular safety in Hawaii; and
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 27 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Director of
 28 Transportation, the Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu,
 29 and the Director of Transportation Services of the City and
 30 County of Honolulu.
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OFFERED BY:



MAR - 6 2019

