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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO ESTABLISH BETTER SAFETY CONDITIONS AT CROSSWALKS AND REPORT ON RECOMMENDED LOCATIONS AND POTENTIAL COSTS TO IMPLEMENT PEDESTRIAN ACTUATED SAFETY SIGNALS AT MID-BLOCK CROSSINGS.

1           WHEREAS, marked crosswalks are to alert motorists of the  
2 potential pedestrian crossing and define the area where  
3 pedestrians have the right-of-way, as reported by the Department  
4 of Transportation (DOT) in *Intersections and Crossings*, section  
5 5, July 2013; and

6  
7           WHEREAS, crosswalks that are not at corners of a street are  
8 known as mid-block crossings by the DOT and National Highway  
9 Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA); and

10  
11           WHEREAS, according to the NHTSA Traffic Safety Facts, over  
12 75 percent of pedestrian fatalities occur at mid-block crossings  
13 nationwide; and

14  
15           WHEREAS, in Hawaii, DOT reports that pedestrian fatalities  
16 have more than doubled from 15 pedestrian fatalities in 2017 to  
17 44 pedestrian fatalities in 2018; and

18  
19           WHEREAS, drivers' inattention to traffic signs, red lights,  
20 and pedestrians in crosswalks caused 1,200 serious injuries and  
21 44 pedestrian fatalities in 2018 and 9 pedestrian fatalities  
22 through February 2019; and

23  
24           WHEREAS, many incidents of fatalities and serious injuries  
25 have occurred at mid-block crossings that lack signage and  
26 signalization, as these crossings are not clearly visible to  
27 inattentive drivers; and



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1           WHEREAS, mid-block crossings without traffic lights,  
2 signage, or signalization can be improved by the implementation  
3 of flashing lights, pedestrian actuated devices, or other  
4 crosswalk sensors that are activated before and during  
5 pedestrian crossings within the marked crosswalks; and  
6

7           WHEREAS, flashing lights or other pedestrian actuated  
8 devices at mid-block crossings and crosswalks have the potential  
9 to capture the attention of drivers, which will prevent or  
10 reduce injuries and pedestrian fatalities in the State; and  
11

12           WHEREAS, the State's roadways need to be made safe for all  
13 users, but particularly vulnerable children, those with limited  
14 physical abilities, and the elderly; and  
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16           WHEREAS, further insights on the current and proposed use  
17 of flashing lights or other pedestrian actuated devices at  
18 crosswalks can be provided to prevent pedestrian injuries and  
19 fatalities; now, therefore,  
20

21           BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
22 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of  
23 2019, that the Department of Transportation is requested to  
24 convene a task force to establish better safety conditions at  
25 crosswalks and report on recommended locations and potential  
26 costs to implement pedestrian actuated safety signals at mid-  
27 block crossings; and  
28

29           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this task force shall consist  
30 of members from the DOT, Department of Transportation Services  
31 of the City and County of Honolulu, the Traffic Division of the  
32 Department of Public Works of the County of Hawaii, the  
33 Transportation Agency of the County of Kauai, and the Department  
34 of Transportation of the County of Maui; and  
35

36           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this task force will study and  
37 report on:



- 1 (1) All crosswalks within the State that lack  
2 corresponding traffic lights, signage, or  
3 signalization;  
4
- 5 (2) Safety regulations required by each crosswalk  
6 identified in paragraph (1), such as signage  
7 requirements based on daily traffic, and a detailed  
8 list of requirements that are not currently met;  
9
- 10 (3) Incidences of pedestrian accidents, injuries, and  
11 fatalities at each of the crosswalks identified in  
12 paragraph (1);  
13
- 14 (4) A prioritized list of all crosswalks that require  
15 further safety intervention, as determined by the task  
16 force;  
17
- 18 (5) A description of possible pedestrian actuated devices  
19 to alert drivers of potential and in-progress  
20 crossings within mid-block crosswalks, including, but  
21 not limited to, flashing lights or other devices  
22 activated through sensors, pressure, touch, or similar  
23 mechanisms; and  
24
- 25 (6) Recommended pedestrian actuated devices for each  
26 location identified in paragraph (4), and estimated  
27 costs and timelines needed for implementation; and  
28

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all recommendations made by the  
30 task force shall fall within the standards of the current  
31 edition of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for  
32 Streets and Highways; and  
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to  
35 report its findings to the Legislature no later than 20 days  
36 prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2020; and



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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 2 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Transportation; the  
 3 Mayors of the City and County of Honolulu, County of Hawaii,  
 4 County of Maui, and County of Kauai; Director of Transportation  
 5 Services of the City and County of Honolulu; Director of Public  
 6 Works of the County of Hawaii; Executive of Transportation of  
 7 the County of Kauai; and Director of Transportation of the  
 8 County of Maui.

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