

**SB-693-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 11:00:47 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2019 9:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Larry Smith         | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**LATE**

**SB-693-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2019 4:04:12 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2019 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Chris Clark  | Individual   | Oppose             | No                 |

Comments:

Please de-criminalizing walking. Pedestrian right-of-way in crosswalks should be legally strengthened not eroded as proposed by SB693.

- This body has supported **vision zero** (such as SB565). Unfortunately, SB693 is polar opposite to vision zero's proven safety countermeasures and will worsen the deadly conditions we see on our roadways.
- The purpose of the pedestrian countdown timer is to provide more **information to the pedestrian** to make informed decisions about crossing.
- Improving pedestrian access and comfort is necessary to achieve Hawaii's ambitious **clean energy goals**.
- Criminalization of walking disproportionately **impacts our most vulnerable** low income, minority, and aging communities.

This amendment to update the law is necessary as the current statute does not address the countdown timers. We must follow California's lead with their new law, which took effect on January 1, revised California Vehicle Code Section 21456(b). The bill passed the state legislature unanimously in October 2017.

[http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes\\_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=21456.&lawCode=VEH](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=21456.&lawCode=VEH)

I suggest that your committee consider an amendment to Section 2 of the bill, so that the third item reads as follows:

- *(3) Countdown timer. If the pedestrian-control signal is equipped with a countdown timer, pedestrians facing the signal may begin crossing or proceed across the roadway in the direction of the signal and shall be given the right-of-way by the drivers of all vehicles. No pedestrian shall start to cross the roadway in the direction of the countdown signal after the countdown has commenced unless the pedestrian can complete the crossing to a sidewalk or safety island with reasonable effort before the countdown reaches "0".*

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony.