

**TESTIMONY BY:**

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

March 17, 2021  
10:30 A.M.  
State Capitol, Teleconference

**S.B. 287, S.D. 2**  
**RELATING TO VISION ZERO**

House Committee on Transportation

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The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** S.B. 287, S.D. 2 which requires the DOT to implement a vision zero program in Hawaii by July 1, 2022, and establishes a goal of no traffic fatalities or serious injuries by 2045.

The DOT supports all efforts to reduce motor vehicle fatalities on our roadways. The overwhelming majority of these senseless deaths and serious injuries are preventable.

From 2015 through 2019, there were 545 motor vehicle fatalities in Hawaii. During these years, the Hawaii Department of Health listed the top ten causes of injury-related deaths among Hawaii residents. Motor vehicle crashes for occupants ranked fourth, pedestrians ranked eighth and motorcyclists ranked ninth.

After a record year of 120 motor vehicle fatalities in 2018, the Hawaii State Legislature passed Act 134 on June 25, 2019, also known as the Vision Zero Act, requiring the DOT and County Transportation Departments to adopt a Vision Zero Policy and the State Highway Safety Council (SHSC) to submit a final report on the Vision Zero Action Plan to reduce traffic fatalities to zero. Act 134 repurposed the SHSC under Hawaii Revised Statutes 286 to focus on developing an action plan to reduce traffic fatalities to zero.

This report was completed and submitted to the DOT on October 12, 2020.

This action plan included but was not be limited to:

- (1) Policies on how to reduce speeds on state and county roads;
- (2) Engineering recommendations on how to increase vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle safety;
- (3) Data-driven enforcement recommendations on how to reduce speeding and operating a vehicle while under the influence of an intoxicant;

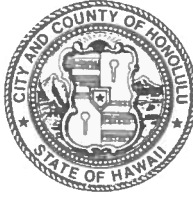
- (4) Additional steps that can be taken to eliminate vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle fatalities on the roadways;
- (5) An implementation plan; and
- (6) Establishment of measures to track success.

Adopting and implementing the SHSC's Vision Zero action plan will help the State towards its goal of eliminating traffic fatalities and serious injuries.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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CT-LC

March 17, 2021

The Honorable Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair  
and Members  
Committee on Transportation  
House of Representatives  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 423  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Aquino and Members:

SUBJECT: Senate Bill No. 287, S.D. 2, Relating to Vision Zero

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

The HPD supports Senate Bill No. 287, S.D. 2, Relating to Vision Zero.

The HPD supports the proposal to implement a "Vision Zero" program in Hawaii. This program has been successfully implemented in several other major metropolitan cities. The "Vision Zero" program is designed to reduce fatalities and serious injuries resulting from traffic collisions. Any safety program that can help to keep our roadways safe should be considered.

The HPD urges you to support Senate Bill No. 287, S.D. 2, Relating to Vision Zero.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Ballard".

Susan Ballard  
Chief of Police

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Calvin Tong".

Calvin Tong, Major  
Traffic Division

March 16, 2021

To: Chair Aquino  
Vice Chair Ilagan  
House Committee on Transportation

RE: Support for SB287 SD2

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of SB287 SD2 and for considering policies and practices aimed at making our streets safer. Blue Zones Project was brought to Hawai'i by HMSA to help increase the overall well-being of our communities and to make Hawaii a healthier, happier place to live, work, and play. To accomplish that goal, we support policies that lower rates of obesity, tobacco use, and chronic disease.

Vision Zero is a collaborative, comprehensive road traffic safety program that aims for zero traffic fatalities or serious injuries. This multidisciplinary approach brings together local leaders in health, traffic engineering, and law enforcement to create policies and practices to improve the safety of travel. Since its founding, Sweeden has become a leader in road safety and has seen traffic fatalities cut in half from 1996 to 2016.

Vision Zero has since been adopted by over 20 major U.S. cities since 2014, including New York City, San Francisco, Washington D.C., and Austin. After adopting Vision Zero, San Francisco benefited from a 41% reduction in pedestrian deaths from 2013 (a year before Vision Zero was implemented) to 2017, a year that the city recorded the lowest traffic fatalities since 1915. Since implementing Vision Zero in 2014, New York City has benefitted from four consecutive years of declining traffic fatalities, ending 2017 as the safest year on record with a 28% decline in traffic fatalities and a 45% decline in pedestrian deaths from 2013 (a year before Vision Zero was implemented) to 2017.

As we work towards our goal of zero traffic fatalities, we must continue to support engineering, education, equity, evaluation, and policy efforts that align with Vision Zero. Therefore, we that this committee pass SB287 SD2.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify,

Colby Takeda, MBA, MPH  
Senior Manager

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Mothers Against Drunk Driving HAWAII  
745 Fort Street, Suite 303  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
Phone (808) 532-6232  
Fax (808) 532-6004  
hi.state@madd.org

March 17, 2021

To: Representative Henry J.C. Aquino , Chair, House Committee on Transportation; Representative Greggor Ilagan, Vice Chair; and members of the Committee

From: Carol McNamee – Public Policy Committee, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD Hawaii)

Re: Senate Bill 287, SD2 – Relating to Vision Zero

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I am Carol McNamee testifying on behalf of the members of Mothers Against Driving Hawaii in **support** of Senate Bill 287, SD2, Relating to Vision Zero. **The longterm goal of Vision Zero is to eliminate all traffic fatalities and serious injuries in Hawaii by 2045.**

Along with local tactics or programs that could be adopted, the State could join in national initiatives that MADD referred to in a Star Advertiser Op Ed of February 23, 2021 –Technology Can Stop Drunk Driving:

“The auto industry developed driver monitoring systems, which can detect signs of distracted, impaired or fatigued driving, and alcohol detection systems, which use sensors to determine whether a driver is under the influence and then prevent the vehicle from moving. More than 9,400 lives could be saved annually by installing such systems in all new cars, according to an Insurance Institute for Highway Safety study.

It’s time to get these life-saving systems out of the labs and into every vehicle on the road, to ensure that there will be no more victims of drunk driving.

To do that, we need Congress to act. In 2019, legislation was introduced in the House and Senate that would require the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to conduct a rule making that results in a requirement for drunk driving prevention systems in all new vehicles in the near future.”

Hawaii needs our leaders to work with and strongly encourage the decision makers in Washington to move ahead with this life saving program as vigorously and as quickly as possible.

MADD Hawaii supports SB 287,SD2. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



March 16, 2021

Good Morning,

My name is Jess Thompson, and I am the Executive Director of PATH—People’s Advocacy for Trails Hawaii. PATH is a Hawai’i-county based nonprofit, and our **mission** is to safely connect people and places on **Hawai’i** Island with pathways and bikeways.

Over the course of the past decade, PATH has worked hard to champion **Vision Zero** because we know that ending serious injuries and deaths caused by vehicle-related crashes requires a multi-pronged strategy provided by Vision Zero. I am proud to report, in November 2020, Hawaii County Council unanimously passed a resolution recognizing the Vision Zero Action Plan.

Which is why PATH is so thrilled to be with you today. We support SB **287** and believe that, together, we can eliminate traffic-related injuries and death.

The data is clear. Our most vulnerable road users are most at-risk of traffic related injuries and deaths. We can change outcomes for our most vulnerable road-users by implementing a state-wide Vision Zero program.

Thank you for your commitment to the peoples of Hawai’i. Please support this bill

Mahalo,

Jessica Thompson

Executive Director

PATH



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Department of Kinesiology and  
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Garret Sugai  
Kaiser Permanente

Date: March 16, 2021

To: Representative Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair  
Representative Greggor Ilagan, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Transportation Committee

Re: Support for SB 287, SD2, Relating to Vision Zero

Hrg: March 17, 2021 at 10:30 AM via Videoconference

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The Obesity Prevention Task Force of the Hawai'i Public Health Institute<sup>i</sup> is in **support of SB 287, SD2**, which requires the Department of Transportation to implement a vision zero program and establishes a goal of no traffic fatalities or serious injuries by 2045.

We applaud the legislature's commitment to creating safer, more livable streets with the goal of eliminating all traffic fatalities and reducing severe injuries. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Hawai'i had 108 traffic fatalities in 2019, with 52 involving speeding and 23 involving an intersection<sup>ii</sup>. In the same year, the Hawai'i State Legislature passed Act 134, which required the state and county transportation departments to adopt vision zero policies and a report with an action plan to reduce traffic fatalities to zero.

Injuries are not accidents — they are predictable and preventable. Vision Zero is a growing movement in cities across the nation that focuses on improving transportation systems and infrastructure for vehicle traffic as well as for people who walk, ride bicycles, and use other forms of transportation. Vision Zero is a bold vision that is not only possible, but necessary.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of SB 287 SD2**, which will help promote and improve transportation safety and mobility for all residents.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jaylen Murakami'.

Jaylen Murakami  
Advocacy and Outreach Coordinator

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<sup>i</sup> Created by the legislature in 2012, the Obesity Prevention Task Force is comprised of over 60 statewide organizations, and works to make recommendations to reshape Hawai'i's school, work, community, and health care environments, making healthier lifestyles obtainable for all Hawai'i residents. The Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI) convenes the Task Force and supports and promotes policy efforts to create a healthy Hawai'i.

Hawai'i Public Health Institute is a hub for building healthy communities, providing issue-based advocacy, education, and technical assistance through partnerships with government, academia, foundations, business, and community-based organizations.

<sup>ii</sup> National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Traffic Safety Performance (Core Outcome) Measures\* For Hawaii. Retrieved from <https://cdan.nhtsa.gov/stsi.htm#>



**LATE**

**SB-287-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 12:40:16 PM

Testimony for TRN on 3/17/2021 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Chad Taniguchi	Hawaii Bicycling League	Support	No

Comments:

The Hawaii Bicycling League strongly supports SB287SD2 which provides the date 2022 by which the state DOT and the counties shall implement a Vision Zero program, to target the date when ALL serious traffic injuries and deaths are eliminated (2045).

The idea is to make road travel as safe as air travel, by systematically and consistently improving infrastructure and procedures to prevent human error as much as possible, and, thereby stop the preventable deaths and life-altering injuries that occur now.

By requiring DOT to implement such a program by 2022, DOT will come up with plans, targets, and funding to reach zero serious injuries and deaths by 2045, just 25 years from now. As other countries and states have proven, Vision Zero is possible. It is possible that we can imagine safe streets and get there. If we have the will, vision, and plan to do it, we will.

This is a solid step forward for DOT and the counties with meaningful timetables. Please support this bill.



ALOHA CARE

**LATE**

Date: Wednesday, March 17, 2021

To: The Honorable Representative Henry Aquino, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Greggor Ilagan, Vice-Chair  
Committee on Transportation

From: Peggy Mierzwa, Senior Policy Analyst, External Affairs

RE: **SB287 SD2, SUPPORT** Relating to Vision Zero

AlohaCare appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in **support** of SB287 SD2. This measure would require the Department of Transportation and the counties to implement a vision zero program in Hawaii by July 1, 2022.

Founded in 1994, AlohaCare is a community-rooted, non-profit health plan serving 73,000 Medicaid and dual-eligible health plan members on all islands. It is the only state health plan exclusively serving Medicaid patients. Our mission is to serve individuals and communities in the true spirit of aloha by ensuring and advocating access to quality health care for all. We believe that health is about supporting whole-person care, including access to housing and food security, to build a stronger, healthier Hawaii.

AlohaCare appreciates the Legislature's commitment to promote infrastructure that is safer for physical activity and active transportation. This measure would establish a Vision Zero program that would eliminate traffic fatalities and serious injuries by 2045. Between 2017 to March 2021, [434 people](#) lost their lives in traffic collisions on Hawaii's roads. These traffic fatalities are preventable and all people deserve safety whether traveling by foot, bicycle, vehicle, or public transit.

In addition, transportation is an important social determinant of health. The infrastructure of where people live directly correlates to their well-being. Lack of physical movement leads to higher rates of obesity, heart disease, high blood pressure and diabetes. In communities with higher health disparities there are historically less and more poorly maintained sidewalks, less lighting, no dedicated bike lanes, which lead to overall dangerous conditions to walk or bike. In areas with lower income, walking, biking and public transportation are more highly utilized and more individuals are hurt or killed because of the lack of safe conditions. Furthermore, these dangerous facilities do not allow for individuals to safely play and exercise, increasing poor health outcomes.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**LATE**

**SB-287-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 5:16:46 PM

Testimony for TRN on 3/17/2021 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lisa Dau	Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Lisa Dau and I am the coordinator for Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition (KIPC). KIPC strongly supports SB287SD1 which provides the date 2022 by which the state DOT shall implement a Vision Zero program, to target the date when ALL serious traffic injuries and deaths are eliminated (2045).

Thank you,

Lisa Dau, RN  
Injury Prevention Coordinator

**SB-287-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 9:37:05 AM

Testimony for TRN on 3/17/2021 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
John Rogers	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB287 SD2. Requiring that the DOT and County transportation departments implement a Vision Zeor Program by July 2022.

John Rogers

Ewa NB #23 Transportation Committee Chair

**LATE**

**SB-287-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 11:44:59 AM

Testimony for TRN on 3/17/2021 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Aaron L Hansen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB 287 and SB1401

**LATE**

**SB-287-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 4:43:09 PM

Testimony for TRN on 3/17/2021 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Shannon Jaquess	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB 287.