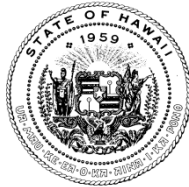


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March 21, 2024
2:05 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 325 & Videoconference

**S.B. 2819, S.D. 1, H.D. 1
RELATING TO TRAFFIC SAFETY**

House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

The Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) **supports** S.B. 2819, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, which requires vehicles traveling at ten miles per hour or more below the speed limit on a two-lane highway, behind which five or more vehicles are formed in a line, to pull over at the nearest safe location where sufficient space exists to let the trailing vehicles proceed when passing is not possible or permitted.

The HDOT believes that this will improve operational efficiency and minimize road rage statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
03-12-24

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair
Rep. Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair
ON

S.B. 2819 SD1, HD1 RELATING TO TRAFFIC SAFETY

by
Scott W. Smart

Chairman Todd and members of the House Committee on TRN:

I am testifying OPPOSING S.B. 2819 SD1, HD1

This bill seeks to reduce “road rage” by requiring vehicles proceeding at “less than the speed limit” to “move off the roadway”. Unfortunately, the opposite is likely. Chapter 291C Sec 1 defines “vehicle” to include “bicycles” and “mopeds”. Sec 145 generally requires bicycles to “ride as near to the right-hand curb, on the edge of the roadway, or on the shoulder off of the roadway as practicable” if operating “at a speed less than the normal speed of traffic”.

As proposed, this bill would instead require bicycles to “move off the roadway”, even in circumstances when the bicycle is being operated at “the normal speed of traffic”, if the “normal speed” is less than the “speed limit”. This will likely create an expectation by motor vehicle operators that bicycles should continually “move off the roadway”, even if the lane width allows for riding as far right as practicable. The bill assumes that an operator of a bicycle can readily ascertain that a “line of five or more vehicles is following immediately behind”. This is an unreasonable demand. I also note that there is no requirement for a bicycle to have a speed measuring device, so it cannot be assumed a bicycle user is aware if they are operating at less than the “speed limit”.

/s/
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