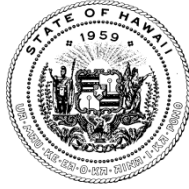


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

Deputy Directors
Nā Hope Luna Ho'okele
DREANALEE K. KALILI
TAMMY L. LEE
CURT T. OTAGURO
ROBIN K. SHISHIDO

STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | KA 'OIHANA ALAKAU
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

March 25, 2025
10:01 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 016 & Videoconference

H.B. 706, H.D. 1, S.D. 1
RELATING TO HIGHWAY SAFETY

Senate Committee on Judiciary

The Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) **supports H.B. 706, H.D. 1, S.D. 1**, which requires persons under the age of 16 to wear a helmet while riding a skateboard. Clarifies that the Act does not infringe on county ordinances prohibiting skateboards on streets and roadways.

According to the Hawaii Department of Health, from 2019 through 2023, there were 11 serious skateboard injuries on our roadways, 2 of which were under the age of 17 and neither of them were wearing helmets.

According to the National Library of Medicine, wearing a helmet while skateboarding reduces the risk of head injuries by up to 88 percent.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF DECISION MAKING

DATE: Tuesday, March 25, 2025
TIME: 10:01 AM
PLACE: Conference Room 016 & Videoconference

RE: HB706 HD1 SD1 Relating to Highway Safety
From: Lisa Dau, RN, Injury Prevention Coordinator
Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition (KIPC)

I am writing to express our strong support for HB706 HD1 SD1, which requires all skateboard users under sixteen to wear helmets while riding. KIPC believes this measure is critical for ensuring the safety of young skateboarders and preventing serious head injuries.

Skateboarding is a popular activity among young people, but it also poses significant risks. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), wearing a helmet can lower the risk of severe head injuries by up to 85%. Young riders, due to their developing motor skills and awareness of risks, are particularly vulnerable to falls and collisions. Requiring helmet use would help establish safe habits and greatly reduce preventable injuries.

In addition, traumatic brain injuries impose a significant burden on families and the healthcare system. Emergency treatments and long-term rehabilitation for head injuries can be expensive, making prevention the most effective solution. Hawaii already has a law requiring bicycle helmets under sixteen, so it is only logical to extend similar safety measures to skateboarding.

Organizations such as the American Academy of Pediatrics and the National Safety Council strongly advocate for helmet use in action sports. By enacting this law, we can save lives, reduce medical costs, and promote responsible recreation.

KIPC respectfully urges you to support HB706 HD1 and take necessary action to protect our youth. Thank you for your time and dedication to public safety.

Sincerely,
Lisa Dau, RN, MBA, BSN, CPSTI
KIPC, Injury Prevention Coordinator

The Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition's (KIPC) mission is to prevent and reduce injuries to children in Hawaii. <https://kipchawaii.org/>

HB-706-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2025 2:18:02 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/25/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frank Schultz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this initiative.