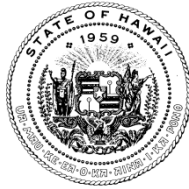


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
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STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | KA 'OIHANA ALAKAU
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

February 6, 2025
10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 430 & Video Conference

H.B. 706
RELATING TO HIGHWAY SAFETY

House Committee on Transportation

The Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) **supports H.B. 706**, 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, two 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.



Testimony in Support of HB706 Relating to Highway Safety

February 6, 2025

Lisa Dau, RN, Injury Prevention Coordinator
Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition (KIPC)

Rep. Darius Kila, Chair, Rep. Tina Nakada Grandinetti, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition (KIPC), I am writing to express our strong support for HB706, 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 carries significant risks. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), wearing a helmet can reduce the risk of severe head injuries by as much as 85%. Young riders, because of their developing motor skills and risk awareness, are especially vulnerable to falls and collisions. Mandating helmet use would help instill safe habits and significantly 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. Many states already have laws requiring bicycle helmets for minors, 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. Additionally, personal testimonies from injured skateboarders and their families highlight the devastating consequences of not wearing a helmet. By enacting this law, we can save lives, reduce medical costs, and promote responsible recreation.

KIPC respectfully urges you to support HB 706 and take necessary action to protect our youth. Thank you for your time and dedication to public safety.

Sincerely,
Lisa Dau, RN
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/>



Testimony in Support of HB706 Relating to Highway Safety

February 6, 2025

Lisa Dau, RN, Injury Prevention Coordinator

Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition (KIPC)

Rep. Darius Kila, Chair, Rep. Tina Nakada Grandinetti, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lisa Dau, I am a registered nurse and the Injury Prevention Coordinator. I represent Kapiolani Medical Center for Women & Children, and we strongly support HB706, requiring skateboard users under 16 to wear helmets. Skateboarding poses a significant risk of head injuries, which can be prevented by helmet use. Studies show helmets reduce severe head injuries by up to 85%, similar to the success seen with bicycle helmet laws.

While some argue against mandates, safety should be our priority. Just as seat belt and bicycle helmet laws save lives, this bill will protect young skateboarders and reduce preventable injuries.

We urge the committee to pass HB 706 for the well-being of our youth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Lisa M. Dau'.

Lisa Dau, RN, MBA, BSN, CPSTI

Injury Prevention Coordinator

Kapiolani Medical Center for Women & Children

HB-706

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 3:34:54 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/6/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paula Kurashige	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Paula Kurashige, agree with passing House Bill 706, as I have had 2 deaths in my family from riding skate board without helmet. Both my grandson, 21 who donated all his organs and my nephew one year previously in Kona. I tried 3 times to pass a bill, but it was tabled, by legislators. Please pass this bill HB 706 immediately. Yes, yes, yes, Pass this Bill!!!!

HB-706

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 4:08:30 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/6/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Suzanne Anderson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear representative Kila and the other eight members of the transportation committee,

Of course you all know how important it is for a skateboarder to be wearing a helmet. The helmet will save a beautiful life, and it would've saved the life of my friend, Paula Kurashige's grandson. His name was Kameron Steinhoff, There are just so many others who have had fatal accidents on skateboards. I'm surprised this isn't in our law already, and I'm sure you would all know that it should be.

Kameron was a wonderful young man and very respected by students, such as my own son, at his school. My son, Andrew, was quite a few years younger. He was a skateboarder also, who looked up to Kameron, and would've been influenced by him had he worn a Helmet. Fortunately, for Andrew, he only had near misses, not hurting himself badly. Wearing a helmet is the smart thing to do and should be law.

sincerely,

Suzanne Anderson