

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



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

January 30, 2025  
3:00 P.M.  
State Capitol, Room 224 & Videoconference

**S.B. 344**  
**RELATING TO HIGHWAY SAFETY**

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Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts

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The Department of Transportation **supports S.B. 344**, 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.

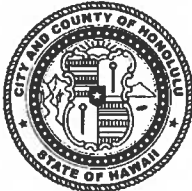
According to the Hawaii Department of Health, from 2019 through 2023, there were 11 serious skateboard injuries on our roadways, 2 of which were under the age of 17 and neither of them were wearing helmets.

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.

HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT  
KA 'OIHANA MĀKA'I O HONOLULU  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
TELEPHONE: (808) 529-3111 • WEBSITE: [www.honolulupd.org](http://www.honolulupd.org)



RICK BLANGIARDI  
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ARTHUR J. LOGAN  
CHIEF  
KAHU MĀKA'I  
  
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RADE K. VANIC  
DEPUTY CHIEFS  
HOPE LUNA NUI MĀKA'I

OUR REFERENCE **ST-JK**

January 30, 2025

The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair  
and Members  
Committee on Transportation and  
Culture and the Arts  
State Senate  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 224  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Lee and Members:

**SUBJECT: Senate Bill No. 344, Relating to Highway Safety**

I am Major Stason Tanaka of District 7 (East Honolulu), Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD supports Senate Bill No. 344, Relating to Highway Safety. This bill will contribute to the safety of young skateboard users. Safety and protective gear, including helmets, help to reduce the severity of injuries sustained by juvenile skateboarders in the event of a crash or fall.

The HPD urges you to support Senate Bill No. 344, Relating to Highway Safety.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stason Tanaka".

Stason Tanaka, Major  
District 7

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arthur J. Logan".  

Arthur J. Logan  
Chief of Police

**SB-344**

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 4:10:49 PM

Testimony for TCA on 1/30/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Dau	Testifying for Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition supports SB344

Lisa Dau, RN  
Injury Prevention Coordinator