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Testimony Strongly Supporting SB2529

Aloha Transportation Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Espero, and esteemed members of the Committee on Transportation and Energy:

Hawaii Bicycling League **strongly supports SB2529**, which would clarify in the existing Safe Passing law, Hawaii Revised Statutes 291C-43, that 3 feet is the minimum safe distance that a motorist should provide when overtaking a bicyclist.

SB2529 will make our roads safer for cycling and for all road users by codifying a clear minimum safe passing distance, consistent with national standards and the Hawaii Driver's Manual. This codification of the recognized minimum safe passing distance will increase driver awareness of safe passing and result in safer passing practices. This is crucial to help prevent more injuries and deaths on our roads.

- 30 cyclists have been killed on Hawaii's roads in 10 years (2005-2014)
- 44% of all cyclist fatalities result from being struck from behind or sideswiped (national data)
- 12% of cyclists "felt threatened for personal safety" the last time they rode and "someone drove too close to me" was the primary reason (national data)

Safely sharing our roads requires clear and agreed upon ground rules. No driver wants to hit a cyclist, and some just don't understand what a safe passing distance is. The Safe Passing 3 Foot bill will make it clear to all drivers that 3 feet is the minimum safe passing distance.

Twenty-six states and Washington DC have amended their Safe Passing laws to include 3 feet as the minimum distance when overtaking a bicyclist. Police, cities, states, and nonprofits in these states are using signage, enforcement, and awareness campaigns to make sure their Safe Passing laws make their streets safer.

Thank you very much for considering the comments of Hawaii Bicycling League. If you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please contact Chad Taniguchi (808-735-5756, chad@hbl.org) or Daniel Alexander (808-275-6717, Daniel@hbl.org).

Ride and Drive Aloha,

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