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Testimony Supporting SB663

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, esteemed members of the Committee on Ways and Means,

Hawaii Bicycling League **strongly supports Senate Bill SB663**, which allows the counties to establish “photo red light imaging detector systems.”

Photo red light imaging detector systems or red light enforcement cameras will make our streets safer for everyone. The positive safety impacts are proven and major:

- Red light running is dangerous for people that walk, bike, and drive — in the US in 2014, red light running was a factor in 710 deaths, including 44 bicycle and pedestrian deathsⁱ
- Red light enforcement cameras reduce crashes & injuries – a summary of studies found they reduce crashes at signalized intersections by 25-30%ⁱⁱ
- Red light enforcement cameras reduce the most serious crashes – while some studies have found that red light cameras slightly increase rear-end collisions, the evidence is consistent that they significantly reduce “angle” (aka T-bone) crashes which are most likely to result in serious injury or deathⁱⁱⁱ
- Red light enforcement cameras save lives – a study of red light enforcement cameras in the US estimated that by 2014 they had saved nearly 1,300 lives^{iv}

SB663 follows national best practices that will ensure that red light enforcement cameras accomplish the objective of saving lives and reducing traffic injuries, while minimizing any potential concerns:

- Cameras will be at fixed locations with signs warning drivers of the cameras
- Cameras will be placed where data shows traffic crashes and injuries
- Camera providers will be paid a flat fee no matter how many tickets issued (unlike the “Van Cams” in 2002 where the operate was paid a per ticket fee and therefore incentivized to issue more citations)
- A red light running committee will make recommendations before implementation
- Each county must separately decide to implement red light cameras
- Registered owners may escape responsibility if someone else uses their car
- Only those who run red lights have their photos taken
- Car rental companies may escape responsibility by identifying the renter

We urge you to pass SB663 and take a major step towards making our streets safer for people that walk, bike, and drive.

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 Daniel Alexander (808-275-6717, Daniel@hbl.org) or Chad Taniguchi (808-255-8271).

Ride and Drive Aloha,



Daniel Alexander
Co-Executive Director
Hawaii Bicycling League



Chad Taniguchi
Director Emeritus
Hawaii Bicycling League

Sources

ⁱ <https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/intersection/conventional/signalized/rlr/>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/15389580309858>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/research/safety/05049/>

^{iv} <https://www.iihs.org/iihs/news/desktopnews/turning-off-red-light-cameras-costs-lives-new-research-shows>