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**TO:** Chair Gary Okino  
Vice-Chair Nestor Garcia

**FROM:** Mitchell S. Nakagawa, Executive Director

**HEARING DATE:** Thursday, September 3, 2009, 9:00am

**SUBJECT:** Support for Bill 64 CD1

The Hawaii Bicycling League supports Bill 64-09 with CD1 to improve bicycling safety. The Hawaii Bicycling League, a member-based non-profit incorporated in 1975, is the state's largest bicycling non-profit.

The Hawaii Bicycling League advocates safe riding within the rules and regulations of the road and supports CD1. There is great need for this law - a Hawaii State Department of Health report notes that 64% of bicycling fatalities in Hawai'i occurred on O'ahu (Injuries in Hawai'i 2001-2006, Injury Prevention and Control Program). Furthermore, Honolulu lacks a bicycle bill of rights, despite the 2006 Charter Amendment in which 77% of Honolulu voted to make Honolulu pedestrian and bicycling safe.

This need is also recognized in the City and County of Honolulu's Department of Transportation Services draft bike plan, released in August:

- Section 3.3 Education, 4: "Implement '3-foot rule' legislation and education campaign to educate motorists and cyclists on safe, minimum passing distances...the larger or faster moving vehicle should always give way to smaller, slowing moving vehicles (or persons)."

In addition, the plan identifies achieving a Bicycle-Friendly Communities designation by the League of American Bicyclists as a 5-year goal. One criteria of this designation is a 3-foot law.

We support this bill and hope that with the Council's support, Honolulu joins the 15 states who have passed 3-foot laws. In order to achieve a safe bicycling environment and to reach the first goal of the bike plan, an increase in number of bike trips by 50% over a 5-year period, residents must feel confident that our communities are safe and that rights are protected.

Thank you for your attention and the opportunity to testify.