



ADDRESS  
3442 Wai'ala'e Ave., Suite 1  
Honolulu, HI 96816

PHONE  
808-735-5756

EMAIL  
bicycle@hbl.org

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY  
Tuesday - March, 31, 2026 - 10:30AM

**Hawai'i Bicycling League Strongly Supports HB 1523, HD1, Relating to Statewide Traffic Code**

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Eduardo Hernandez and I am the Advocacy Director of the Hawai'i Bicycling League (HBL). We are a non-profit organization founded in 1975 with the mission of enabling more people to ride bicycles for health, recreation, and transportation. We strive to create communities across our islands that have safe, accessible, and inclusive environments for people to bike, walk, and roll.

**HBL strongly supports HB 1523, HD1 which would amend Section 291C-33, HRS and remove reference to countdown timers, including the requirement that pedestrians must begin crossing a roadway before a countdown timer begins.**

Given that 2025 was one of the deadliest years in decades on Hawai'i roads, it is imperative to take bold action to influence public behavior change and raise awareness about road safety for all road users, especially vulnerable users, including pedestrians. This is aligned with Vision Zero principles which have been adopted by the State and the Counties. It also supports creating walkable communities and Honolulu's 2026 Charter Amendment for a more bike- and pedestrian-friendly city.

**HB1523, HD1 represents a practical and important step toward reducing unnecessarily burdensome pedestrian regulations that do not improve safety and instead contribute to confusing rules and avoidable citations.** Pedestrian countdown signals were not designed to prohibit people from entering a crosswalk once the countdown begins. According to national best practices, including guidance used by cities like San Francisco, countdown timers exist to provide pedestrians with additional information – specifically, how much time remains to cross the street.<sup>1</sup>

HBL urges you to support this bill as a common sense reform that improves clarity, fairness, and safety for pedestrians. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

S/Eduardo Hernandez

**Eduardo Hernandez**  
Advocacy Director  
Hawai'i Bicycling League

---

<sup>1</sup> City and County of San Francisco, "Pedestrian Signals," sfbetterstreets, 2025.

<https://sfbetterstreets.org/find-project-types/pedestrian-safety-and-traffic-calming/pedestrian-signals/index.html>