
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO INCREASING THE LENGTH OF "WALK TIME" FOR PEDESTRIAN
CROSSWALK SIGNAL LIGHTS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE SILVER LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The Silver Legislature finds that older adults
2 are at a higher risk of pedestrian safety while crossing
3 streets. In Hawaii, statistics indicate that the typical victim
4 of a pedestrian traffic collision in Hawaii is a Japanese male,
5 65 or older, walking in a business district in the early morning
6 or early evening.

7 Pedestrian patterns are not always easy to identify, in
8 part because they do not cluster near particular intersections.
9 Instead, they are often spread across long stretches of highways
10 or arterial roads with few stoplights, sidewalks, or other
11 pedestrian safeguards. Many accidents also appear to fall along
12 main bus routes. Statistics illustrate that many accidents
13 among Hawaii's elderly occur when they attempt to cross the
14 street as a bus approaches.

15 The length of a flashing indication (hand symbol) is
16 calculated based on the length of the crosswalk and the
17 nationally recognized average walking speed of pedestrians.
18 Hawaii's elderly have slower than average walking speeds, and
19 therefore, need longer time to cross major intersections.
20 Hawaii's older adults should feel safe knowing that they are
21 under the protection of a crosswalk timer, and should not have
22 to rush to cross the street. Unfortunately, this is not always
23 the case.

1 The purpose of this Act is to reduce traffic accidents and
2 fatalities among Hawaii's elderly by increasing the length of
3 "walk time" for pedestrian crosswalk signal lights.

4 Section 2. The Department of Transportation shall (1)
5 recalculate crosswalk timers for pedestrian signal lights to
6 lengthen the "walk time" for pedestrians.

7 Section 3. It is understood that no provision of this Act
8 shall in any manner adversely impact existing safety procedures,
9 including but not limited to, aid to blind and disabled persons.

10 Section 3. There is appropriated from the General Revenues
11 \$1 million to implement this Act.

12 Section 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2006.