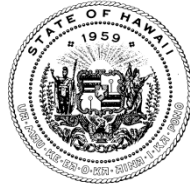


**SCR47/**

**SR21**

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO PROMOTE  
AWARENESS AND SAFETY OF BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED  
PEDESTRIANS.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



FORD N. FUCHIGAMI  
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**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

IN REPLY REFER TO:

March 31, 2015  
2:50 p.m.  
State Capitol, Room 229

**S.C.R. 47**  
**RELATING TO URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO PROMOTE  
AWARENESS AND SAFETY OF BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED PEDESTRIANS**

Senate Committee on Transportation

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The Department of Transportation understands the challenges faced by blind and visually impaired pedestrians. As such, the (DOT) **supports** the intent of S.C.R 47 which would promote awareness and safety of blind and visually impaired pedestrians, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Executive Biennium Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
STATE COUNCIL  
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
919 ALA MOANA BOULEVARD, ROOM 113  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814  
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543  
March 31, 2015

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair  
Senate Committee on Transportation  
Twenty-Eighth Legislature  
State Capitol  
State of Hawaii  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: SCR 47/SR 21 - URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION TO PROMOTE AWARENESS AND SAFETY  
OF BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED PEDESTRIANS.

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **SUPPORTS THE INTENT OF SCR 47/SR 21**. The resolutions urge the Department of Transportation to promote driver awareness of blind and visually impaired pedestrians, including placing awareness posters in public facilities, purchasing radio and television advertisements, and installing street signs in areas of high pedestrian use by blind and visually impaired individuals.

The Council respectfully recommends that the following be amended to reflect people-first language:

1. The title of the resolutions to state: URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO PROMOTE AWARENESS AND SAFETY OF PEDESTRIANS WHO ARE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED [~~PEDESTRIANS~~].
2. Page 1, lines 5-7: WHEREAS, individuals who are blind and visually impaired [~~individuals~~] must take additional precautions when crossing streets, particularly due to their inability to see vehicles; and
3. Page 1, line 9-11: WHEREAS, individuals who are blind and visually impaired [~~individuals~~] often rely on their sense of hearing to determine when it is safe to cross a street; and
4. Page 1, lines 13-17: WHEREAS, electric and hybrid vehicles often make very little noise when driving at low speeds and individuals who are blind and visually impaired [~~individuals~~] have complained that it is difficult to determine if an electric or hybrid vehicle nearby prevents the safe crossing of a street;
5. Page 1, lines 19-26: BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of Transportation is urged to promote driver awareness of pedestrians who are blind and visually impaired

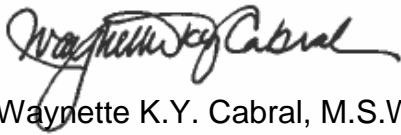
The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara  
Page 2  
March 31, 2015

[pedestrians], including placing awareness posters in public facilities, purchasing radio and television advertisements, and installing street signs in areas of high pedestrian use by individuals who are blind and visually impaired [~~individuals~~]; and

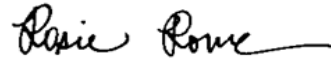
The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) is responsible for providing technical assistance regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act to State and County Government agencies, as well as private businesses. As such, the Council respectively defers to DCAB for any proposed amendments they may have that would strengthen these resolutions promoting driver awareness of pedestrians who are blind and visually impaired.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony **supporting the intent of OF SCR 47/SR 21.**

Sincerely,



Waynette K.Y. Cabral, M.S.W.  
Executive Administrator



Rosie Rowe  
Chair



## DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

919 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 101 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814  
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V/TDD) • Fax (808) 586-8129

March 31, 2015

### TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

#### Senate Concurrent Resolution 47/Senate Resolution 21 – Requesting the Department of Transportation to Promote Awareness and Safety of Blind and Visually Impaired Pedestrians

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports Senate Concurrent Resolution 47/Senate Resolution 21 – Requesting the Department of Transportation to Promote Awareness and Safety of Blind and Visually Impaired Pedestrians. House Bill 1008, House Draft 1 was heard in the House and crossed over to the Senate and is awaiting hearing in the Senate joint committees on Transportation and Human Services and Housing. That measure's subject matter is similar to these resolutions.

These resolutions are important to the safety of pedestrians who are blind and visually impaired. With new technology making hybrid and electric vehicles harder to hear in traffic, there is an increased danger to pedestrians who depend on their hearing to allow them to travel safely on our streets. Increased efforts by the Department of Transportation to promote driver awareness by including posters and using public service announcements on radio and television for drivers to be aware of people who are blind or visually impaired will assist in improvements to safety for all pedestrians including pedestrians with disabilities.

DCAB proposes two (2) amendments to the resolution:

1. Changing language in the resolutions to reflect "people-first" terminology, in the title to read "Requesting the Department of Transportation to Promote Awareness and Safety of Pedestrians who are Blind and Visually Impaired;" and
2. Changing similar references throughout the bill to "individuals who are blind and visually impaired" in subsequent sections of the resolutions.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

BARBARA FISCHLOWITZ-LEONG  
Chairperson  
Legislative Committee

FRANCINE WAI  
Executive Director