

A Bill for an Act Relating to Movable Signs Alongside Public Highways.

*Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:*

SECTION 1. In the past the reasonable use in the State of Hawaii of our public highways for campaign activities was an acceptable mode of electioneering by candidates. In recent elections, however, more and more candidates have begun to mass their supporters along our highways to attract the at-

tention of occupants of passing motor vehicles with signs and attention getting devices.

These supporters compete for the more desirable locations situated near busy intersections and the activity is more prevalent during peak traffic hours. They distract and prevent motorists from observing traffic signals and signs at these critical areas. In their unrestrained enthusiasm for their candidates the supporters imperil themselves and are a hazard to motorists. The practice has resulted in several near accidents and unless it is curbed, could result in serious consequences.

In order to prevent unreasonable distraction of operators of motor vehicles, to prevent confusion with regard to traffic lights, signs, or signals or otherwise interfere with the effectiveness of traffic regulations, to promote the safety, convenience and enjoyment of travel on, and protection of the public investment in highways and to protect the health and safety of non-motoring public who use the areas adjacent to the highways, the legislature finds that the holding of campaign signs alongside or in close proximity to the public highways is a dangerous practice. The practice is dangerous both to the health and safety of the sign holders and to the passing motorists whose attention to driving the sign holder attempts to divert.

SECTION 2. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new subsection to section 291C-77 to read as follows:

**“Sec. 291C-77 Pedestrians soliciting rides, business or attention of motorist.** (a) Except as otherwise provided by county ordinance, no person shall stand in, walk along, or otherwise occupy a portion of a highway for the purpose of soliciting a ride, employment, business, or contributions from the occupant of any vehicle.

(b) No person shall stand on or in proximity to a street or highway for the purpose of soliciting the watching or guarding of any vehicle while parked or about to be parked on a street or highway.

(c) Except as otherwise provided by county ordinances, no person shall hold or display a movable sign within the right-of-way boundaries of a public highway or on the sidewalk abutting a public highway or in an area adjacent to the highway for the purpose of carrying on political campaign activities as defined in section 19-6(7) and which seek to draw the attention of occupants of motor vehicles using the highway. A movable sign is any portable device, display, emblem, billboard, notice, picture, painting or writing, other than official signs placed or required by the State or county.”

SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed. New material is underscored. In printing this Act, the revisor of statutes need not include the brackets, the bracketed material, or the underscoring.\*

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved June 1, 1973.)

\*Edited accordingly.