



**EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS**

HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR

July 9, 2008

The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa, President  
and Members of the Senate  
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Madam President and Members of the Senate:

Re: House Bill No. 357 HD2 SD1 CD1

On July 8, 2008, House Bill No. 357, entitled "A Bill for an Act Relating to Traffic Safety" became law without my signature, pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the State Constitution.

This bill appropriates \$1 million in general funds to the State Department of Transportation to conduct a study and identify State and county intersections where the time to cross is insufficient. The Department is directed to implement improvements to crosswalks identified in the study as high risk. Examples would be adjusting the signal timing or adding countdown timers. The bill also asks the State Department of Transportation to recommend legislation to the 2010 session.

My Administration strongly supports improved pedestrian safety. We have installed countdown timers, improved crosswalk striping, added signage, and improved shoulders and pedestrian walk lanes over this biennium period with the intended purpose of improving the safety of the State's roadways. We have also promoted pedestrian safety education programs including "Walk-Wise Hawaii." We recognize this is an on-going responsibility, particularly as our population ages.

This bill raises several concerns that resulted in my decision not to sign the bill. Most notably, the fiscal picture of the State has changed, meaning each decision that impacts the expenditure of State funds must be cautiously reviewed. This bill appropriates general funds, which I concur is preferable to using State highway funds, for pedestrian improvements. However, the \$1 million appropriation in this measure is outside of the State's 6-year balanced budget plan.

Second, the Department of Transportation informs me that they are skeptical this amount will be adequate to finance all of the items enumerated in this bill. Engineering studies are not

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inexpensive. Thus, it is questionable whether adequate funds will remain to carry out some of the implementation projects contemplated in this legislation.

Finally, as I pointed out in 2007, the counties collect a fuel tax to cover the costs of maintaining and improving county roadways. The county jurisdictions should be encouraged to budget funds for pedestrian improvements on their roads, rather than anticipating they will receive funds from the State.

For the foregoing reasons, I allowed House Bill No. 357 to become law as Act 232, effective July 8, 2008, without my signature.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Lingle", written in a cursive style.

LINDA LINGLE