



CITY COUNCIL

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COUNCILMEMBER DJOU: MAYOR VETOES TEXT MESSAGING BAN

Today, Mayor Mufi Hannemann vetoed Bill 67 (2008), which would ban text messaging and playing video games while driving.

"I am disappointed that Mayor Hannemann did not sign this important proposal to increase safety on our City streets," stated Councilmember Djou. "Driving and sending text messages or playing a video game are simply incompatible activities and should be illegal under the law."

The proposed ban on text messaging while driving is modeled on similar legislation passed by the State of California and several other municipalities across the country. Councilmember Djou recognizes the concern over enforcement but believes that the vast majority of Honolulu drivers will obey the law and if this law reduces traffic accidents by just 5%, it was worth it.

Councilmember Djou said, "The State Legislature and City Council have tried for years to pass a ban on handheld devices but were never successful. I don't understand why the Mayor does not want to take this necessary first step in reducing technology related accidents on our City streets. It was clear from the 7-1 vote taken on January 28th that my colleagues on the City Council understand the importance of Bill 67 and I will work with them to override this veto."

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