

Mobile phone ban while crossing roads in Honolulu

31st July, 2017



Honolulu in Hawaii has become the first major American city to ban pedestrians from walking across the road while looking at mobile phones or other digital devices. The new law will start on October the

25th. It says: "No pedestrian shall cross a street or highway while viewing a mobile electronic device." This includes mobile phones, tablets, laptop computers and digital cameras. Anyone breaking this law for the first time will get a fine of \$15-\$35. People who break the law for a second or third time will get a \$99 fine. The new bill is called the Distracted Walking Law. Honolulu's mayor Kirk Caldwell said the law was because of the high number of accidents, injuries and deaths because of pedestrians using mobile devices.

Some lawmakers called people who text while walking, "phone zombies". Mr Caldwell said the ban was necessary to make people more aware of the dangers of texting while walking. He said: "We hold the unfortunate distinction of being a major city with more pedestrians being hit in crosswalks, particularly our seniors, than almost any other city in the county." He added: "Sometimes I wish there were laws we did not have to pass, that perhaps common sense would [exist], but sometimes we lack common sense." Another lawmaker said: "As technology has advanced, we sometimes forget about the real issue, and that's about safety." The new law is similar to one that bans texting while driving.

Sources: govtech.com / npr.org / marketwatch.com

Writing

Texting while walking should be illegal. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

Hawaii / major / pedestrians / digital devices / highway / computers / fine / injuries / zombies / necessary / distinction / seniors / common sense / technology / texting

True / False

- Honolulu is the first major US city to ban texting while crossing roads. T / F
- The new law came into force last month. T / F
- The fine for a first offence could be \$15. T / F
- Honolulu's mayor said there was a high number of pedestrian deaths. T / F
- Lawmakers said zombie phones should be banned. T / F
- The mayor said old people in particular were being hit at crosswalks. T / F
- The mayor said there was no lack of common sense. T / F
- The new law is nothing like the ban on texting while driving. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. major | a. hazards |
| 2. devices | b. contravening |
| 3. breaking | c. looks like |
| 4. because of | d. needed |
| 5. deaths | e. due to |
| 6. necessary | f. big |
| 7. dangers | g. especially |
| 8. particularly | h. matter |
| 9. issue | i. gadgets |
| 10. similar | j. fatalities |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you know about Hawaii?
- What do you think of texting while walking?
- How important are mobile phones to you?
- Have people looking at mobile phones bumped into you?
- What do you think of the mobile phone ban?
- What do you think of the size of the fine?
- Do people spend too much time looking at mobile phones?
- How can we stop people walking while texting?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. the first major | a. aware of the dangers |
| 2. digital | b. a street |
| 3. cross | c. law |
| 4. break the | d. sense |
| 5. the high number | e. hit in crosswalks |
| 6. make people more | f. American city |
| 7. pedestrians being | g. advanced |
| 8. common | h. of accidents |
| 9. technology has | i. while driving |
| 10. similar to one that bans texting | j. devices |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What other dangers are there of mobile phones?
- What do you think of the term "phone zombie"?
- What would life be like without mobile phones?
- Do people who text while walking have common sense?
- What other dangers are there with mobile phones?
- What makes you angry about people using mobile phones?
- What questions would you like to ask Honolulu's mayor?

Spelling

- the first aomjr American city
- digital veicsde
- No aidtspnere shall cross a street
- This sleindcu mobile phones
- the high number of cintsedca
- inrseiu and deaths
- the ban was sscnyree
- the ruatuotfn distinction
- particularly our nossire
- mmnoco sense
- technology has acvnddae
- The new law is siamlir

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. i	3. b	4. e	5. j
6. d	7. a	8. g	9. h	10. c

Role Play

Role A – Mobile Phones

You think mobile phones are the best electronic devices. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their devices. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): television, iPads or laptops.

Role B – Television

You think televisions are the best electronic devices. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their devices. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): mobile phones, iPads or laptops.

Role C – iPad

You think iPads are the best electronic devices. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their devices. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): television, mobile phones or laptops.

Role D – Laptop

You think laptops are the best electronic devices. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their devices. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): television, iPads or mobile phones.

Speaking – Devices

Rank these with your partner. Put the best electronic devices at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| • Television | • mp3 music players |
| • Nintendo Wii | • mobiles phones |
| • iPad | • electronic dictionaries |
| • digital cameras | • laptop computers |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.