



TESTIMONY BY:

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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

March 13, 2020
10:15 A.M.
State Capitol, Room 423



S.B. 2508, S.D. 1
RELATING TO THE STATEWIDE TRAFFIC CODE

House Committee on Transportation

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** S.B. 2508, S.D. 1, relating to the Statewide Traffic Code. This bill clarifies the term “accident” to mean collision for certain provisions of the statewide traffic code.

For a long time, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has been encouraging the term “accident” to be a collision or crash. This was due to the definition of the word “accident” to mean an unplanned event resulting in unintended consequences. In relation to a motor vehicle, all events are planned and intended, i.e. if a driver speeds or drinks, they knowingly believe that some consequences can occur, namely striking another vehicle and injuring or killing someone. It was because of this that NHTSA encouraged everyone to use the term collision because it infers that it was not an unplanned event.

The DOT urges the committee to pass S.B.2508, S.D. 1 as it will add consistency and education for the term collision and not “accident.”

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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OUR REFERENCE CT-LC

March 13, 2020

The Honorable Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair
and Members
Committee on Transportation
House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 423
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Aquino and Members:

SUBJECT: Senate Bill No. 2508, S.D. 1, Relating to the Statewide Traffic Code

I am Calvin Tong, Major of the Traffic Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD supports Senate Bill No. 2508, S.D. 1, Relating to the Statewide Traffic Code.

The HPD supports the proposal to clarify that the term "accident" includes a "collision" in the statewide traffic code. As a department, we replaced the term accident with collision several years ago. We believe that the great majority of collisions on our roads are preventable and should not be considered accidents. This change in the statewide traffic code would be more in line with our department's policies and procedures.

The HPD urges you to support Senate Bill No. 2508, S.D. 1, Relating to the Statewide Traffic Code.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Ballard".

Susan Ballard
Chief of Police

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Calvin Tong".

Calvin Tong, Major
Traffic Division



Mothers Against Drunk Driving HAWAII
745 Fort Street, Suite 303
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March 13, 2020

To: Representative Henry J. C. Aquino, Chair, House Committee on Transportation; Representative Troy Hashimoto, Vice Chair; and members of the Committee

From: Arkie Koehl and Carol McNamee, Public Policy Committee - MADD Hawaii

Re: House Bill 2508, SD1 – Relating to the Statewide Traffic Code

I am Arkie Koehl, offering testimony on behalf of the Hawaii Chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving in support of House Bill 2508,SD1 – relating to the Statewide Traffic Code.

Alcohol-impaired driving is the leading killer on U.S. roadways. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 12,389 people were killed in alcohol-impaired crashes in the United States in 2018. That same year there were 117 fatalities on Hawaii's roads and 38 percent (45) were alcohol-related (NHTSA). These crashes which cost Hawaii taxpayers over \$575 million annually could all have been prevented.

MADD believes that is important NOT to refer to these incidents as "accidents" and our Hawaii statutes need to reflect that position. The word "accident" connotes something that was no one's fault and happened by chance or for no apparent cause.

Drivers are now very aware that consuming drugs or alcohol can affect driving skills and can cause tragic crashes or collisions resulting in serious injury or death. They can be totally avoidable if a person who intends to consume alcohol or drugs will arrange for alternate transportation, now more available than ever.

For years, MADD has been encouraging the public to use the words collision, crash, wreck, etc of the misleading word, "accident." Our organization believes those words will make a bigger impact on drivers' perception of the seriousness of drinking and driving and using drugs and driving. Alcohol or drug related crashes are not "accidents" but are 100% preventable incidents.

We believe it is vital for Hawaii's statutes to be accurate and call impaired driving crashes by their correct name.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

SB-2508-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 10:20:29 AM

Testimony for TRN on 3/13/2020 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kari Benes	Individual	Support	No

Comments: