

berg1-Liz

From: danny rhee [rheedb@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, March 28, 2008 3:00 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: testimony in support of HR62 and HCR 71

To:

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From: Daniel Rhee, 1729 Nalulu Pl. Honolulu, HI 96821

Re: HEARING DATE: March 24, 2008 TIME: 2:00 pm PLACE: Conference Room 309 State Capitol
 415 South Beretania Street

I offer strong support for HCR 71 and HR 62 URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ONLY PURCHASE OR LEASE LARGE SCHOOL BUSES THAT HAVE AN OPERABLE SEAT BELT ASSEMBLY AT ALL DESIGNATED SEATING POSITIONS AND SEAT BACKS THAT ARE AT LEAST TWENTY-FOUR INCHES IN HEIGHT.

As a concerned citizen I find it absurd that there are not seat belts on school buses. Several children have died in school bus accidents so far this year alone.. I know some kids were hurt in a school bus accident in Kaimuki, very close to where i live and work. I think Hawaii should follow suit of other states that have enacted seat belt legislation for school buses. Children should be taught the consistent message of the importance of bucking up for safety-with parents in cars, and school buses. This written testimony is in conjunction with my oral testimony on March 24, 2008.

Thank you for your consideration,
 Daniel Rhee

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RE: March 24, 2008

Testimony in Support of HR 62 and HCR 71 urging the department of education to only purchase or lease large school buses that have an operable seat belt assembly at all designated seating positions and seat backs that are at least 24 inches in height.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2008

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My name is Karen Dunai, and I am a concerned parent in support of HR 62 and HCR 71. I am amazed that such a basically logical safety device is not legally required. Hawaii has been lucky that no fatalities have occurred on school buses, but we can't deny that injuries have occurred. Other states have had tragedies, and other states have accepted the responsibility to take a small step to prevent these. Nothing is foolproof. School buses are generally safer, as are airplanes than other means of transport. Nonetheless, a single accident, no fault of the trained driver is all it takes for tragedy. According to testimony and news, over 10 kids die each year in such accidents. And, the only true argument opposing bests is cost. I would like to say it should never be a consideration, but we know it is often the tail that wags the dog. The price of seatbelts is so small (over the lifetime of a bus amounts to cents/day), that this is not a valid argument.

Hawaii pushed the "click it or ticket" campaign hard. Hawaii needs to show consistency in its policy. Is it safety-driven, or was the "ticket" the goal?

I do not know if Hawaii ever discussed the issue of seatbelts, but now we have. You guys have the facts, and are now on notice. You have the power to prevent tragedy. If you do nothing, and something should occur, then you will be responsible.

Finally, the resolution is not heavy legislation. It is not a do or die leap. It merely shows Hawaii is dedicated to safety, and is moving in a direction, step-by-step to achieve this.

I sincerely urge Hawaii to take the step and support HR 62 and HCR 71. We have nothing to lose. I thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion.

Karen Dunai