

LATE TESTIMONY

WRITTEN ONLY

TESTIMONY BY GEORGINA K. KAWAMURA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 2058

January 23, 2008

RELATING TO FINES FOR DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF AN
INTOXICANT

House Bill No. 2058 increases the fines for driving under the influence of a toxicant and requires the Director of Finance to distribute the revenues from the fines to each county in which the violations were committed to help finance the design, construction, maintenance, and repair of roads in that county.

The department is concerned that it will be difficult, if not impossible, to distribute the moneys to the counties unless the courts provide a complete accounting of the fines collected and the amounts to be distributed to each county.

In FY 07, the Judiciary collected a total of \$18.4 million in fines. While the amount of fines collected for driving under the influence of intoxicants is not available, this bill may have an impact on the State's general fund revenues.

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Director of Council Services
Ken Fukuoka

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.mauicounty.gov/council

January 22, 2008

LATE TESTIMONY

TO: Honorable Joseph M. Souki, Chair
House Committee on Transportation

FROM: G. Riki Hokama
Council Chair

DATE: January 23, 2008

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT OF HB 2058, RELATING TO FINES FOR DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF AN INTOXICANT**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to increase various DUI related fines and includes a requirement to have the State Director of Finance pay fines received from DUI offenders to the county in which the offense occurred for use in road design, construction, maintenance, and repair.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I support this measure for the following reasons:

1. While the counties are responsible for enforcement, revenues accruing from violations of the Statewide Traffic Code are paid solely to the State. DUI citations are issued by police officers whose costs, including salaries, equipment, and administrative support, are funded by the counties. Allowing each county to receive the fines generated as a result of county enforcement of DUI laws is fair and will provide the counties a much-needed modicum of financial relief from the State.
2. Limiting the use of these funds to design, construction, maintenance, and repair will greatly enhance the counties' ability to improve and maintain much-needed infrastructure.
3. Authorizing the counties to collect such fines would provide the counties with a dedicated revenue source and diversify the counties' revenue bases. As a result, the measure would help to stabilize the counties' budgets and promote the viability of the counties' public services, including the provision of traffic safety improvements.

For the foregoing reasons, I support this measure.

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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OUR REFERENCE EC-LC

January 23, 2008

LATE TESTIMONY

The Honorable Joseph M. Souki, Chair
and Members
Committee on Transportation
House of Representatives
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Souki and Members:

Subject: House Bill No. 2058, Relating to Fines for Driving Under the Influence of an Intoxicant.

I am Captain Evan Ching of the Traffic Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD opposes House Bill No. 2058, relating to fines for driving under the influence of an intoxicant. This bill increases the monetary assessment for its violation and transmits these assessments to the county to be used for design, construction, maintenance, and repair of roads in the county.

The HPD arrested a total of 3,921 offenders for driving under the influence of an intoxicant in 2007. The expenses for preventing life and property for this violation should be borne by the drivers who continue to place others in danger on our highways.

Although the HPD supports the intent of increasing the monetary assessment for this violation, we recommend that the assessment be given back to the counties to help detect and deter drivers who continue to drink and drive and place others in danger of losing their lives.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

APPROVED:

Sincerely,


BOISSE P. CORREA
Chief of Police


EVAN CHING, Captain
Traffic Division