



**To: House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Rep. Robert Herkes, Chair
Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice-Chair**

**Date: February 20, 2008
Conference Room 325
2:00 pm**

LATE TESTIMONY

**Re: HB2093, HD1 RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLE
INSURANCE**

Chair Herkes and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ed Thompson and I am the Associate State Director for Advocacy for AARP Hawaii. We are a membership organization for people 50 and older with 156,000 members in Hawaii. AARP provides access to services and information, meaningful volunteer opportunities, and the opportunity for our members to create positive change in their lives.

AARP supports HB2093, HD1, and if this bill were to pass the legislature, Hawaii would join 35 other states and the District of Columbia that already provide a discount for eligible graduates of approved driver safety programs. The AARP Drive Safety Program is approved in every state.

The AARP Driver Safety Program is the nation's first and largest classroom driver refresher course specially designed for drivers age 50 and older. The eight-hour course is typically taught in two four-hour sessions over two days. Since 1979, over 10 million people have taken the course. In 2006, driver safety volunteers conducted 120 classes throughout Hawaii and trained 1,698 graduates.

We know the program works because program graduates believe that the Driver Safety Course has positively influenced their driving behaviors (2005 AARP survey); 92 percent of program graduates reported they had changed at least one driving behavior as a result of taking the course (2005 AARP survey); and 83 percent of program graduates felt that the information learned in the course helped them prevent being involved in a traffic accident (2005 AARP survey).

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before your committee.