
TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

RE: HB 2953 – RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES

March 10, 2008

MADLINE "LANI" OLDS
DIRECTOR OF CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS
HAWAII SUPERFERRY, INC.

Chair English and Members of the Committee:

Hawaii Superferry supports this bill, which simplifies the documentation requirement for all persons traveling interisland with their vehicles on Hawaii Superferry. The law, as it stands, requires the driver to present to Hawaii Superferry staff the driver's identification (a driver's license), a current certificate of registration for the vehicle and proof of motor vehicle insurance. Currently, under HRS 286-271, a driver who is not the legal or registered owner of the vehicle is also required to present a notarized letter from the registered or legal owner authorizing the shipment.

The time and effort required to obtain a notarized letter of authorization is burdensome for passengers who are not the owners of the vehicles they are driving. Often owners allow family member to use their vehicle, but a spouse or child cannot drive it on board the ferry because of this regulation. In many instances, this results in unnecessarily long wait times to check in or being denied boarding altogether.

In the case of commercial vehicles, where the company is typically the registered owner, we have had instances in which company employees were not allowed to drive the company vehicle onto the vessel because they did not have a notarized authorization letter or were not the legal or registered owner. Businesses change personnel and drivers, so notarized forms must be changed frequently. When a commercial vehicle is not allowed to travel on its scheduled voyage, it is not only inconvenient, but expensive, since deliveries had to be cancelled, work plans changed,

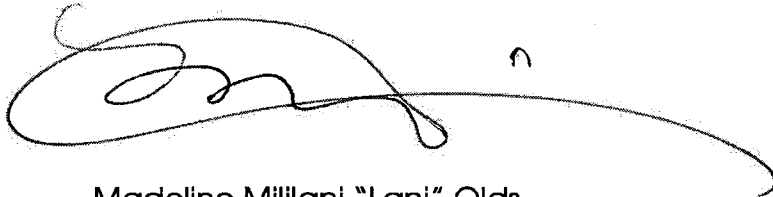
vehicles and their work materials delayed, and businesses awaiting delivery of goods did not receive them.

Under the procedures followed by Hawaii Superferry, each vehicle is already identified by its vehicle identification number (VIN), make, year and color, as well as the driver and passengers traveling with the vehicle. An electronic database of all this information is maintained that provides a superior data trail than the paperwork requirements of the current law.

When this law was enacted, lawmakers could not have anticipated an electronic tracking system like the one used by Hawaii Superferry. The information in our database provides law enforcement with a powerful tool that is available on their request.

We appreciate the interest shown by the legislature in facilitating transportation alternatives in our state. Businesses, families and organizations traveling with vehicles between islands will also appreciate the streamlining of paperwork requirements.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Madeline Mililani', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Madeline Mililani "Lani" Olds

Honorable J. Kalani English, Chair
Committee on Transportation and
International Affairs
Senate, State Capitol Building
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: March 10, 2008 at 1:30 p.m., Room 224

Re: HB 2953 --- Relating To Motor Vehicles

Chair Souki and Honorable Committee Members:

My name is Wayne Tanaka and I am the Chair of the Legislative Committee of Catrala-Hawaii. Catrala's membership consists of the major u-drive companies in Hawaii and the many businesses which support the industry.

Catrala at this time has no concerns regarding this bill.

It is our understanding the Super Ferry has been in communication with the various u-drive companies operating in the State of Hawaii and has worked out acceptable standards and procedures relating to the transport of u-drive vehicles between the islands.

Thank you for allowing us to comment on this bill.