

Representative Tommy Waters, Chair
Representative Blake Oshiro, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary

LATE TESTIMONY

Justin Woodson

Friday, February 15, 2008

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I **strongly support HB 3023 hd1**, relating to motor vehicle drivers licenses and The United States of America's Armed Forces.

Currently existing statutes do not address the issue of driver's license renewal, license validity, and our Armed Servicemen and Women in its totality. There are some timing issues that do not allow Active Duty Members to renew their driver's licenses prior to deployment which can potentially result in the expiration of that license upon arrival back to the U.S. Although a ninety day period does exist in which after serving over seas Active Duty Members are not penalized while renewing their expired driver's licenses, these members can not operate motor vehicles legally until the renewal process is completed. If this process needs to be accomplished through the mail, the procedures take even longer, further elongating the time period before Servicemen can legally drive.

Our returning troops should be able to operate motor vehicles legally with valid driver's licenses while going through the driver's license renewal process after returning from active duty overseas. HB 3023 hd1 addresses this important issue by allowing an expired driver's license of an Active Duty Member to remain valid up to ninety days upon arrival to The United States. A ninety day time period allots our Servicemen the needed time to complete this task in person or through the mail. This minor procedural alternation can potentially make a major difference in assisting our Armed Servicemen with the transition back to civilian life after serving our Country overseas.

We should do everything in our power to make the lives of the people who protect our lives, as easy as possible. Mahalo nui loa for your favorable consideration.