

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



BRENNON T. MORIOKA
INTERIM DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
MICHAEL D. FORMBY
FRANCIS PAUL KEENO
BRIAN H. SEKIGUCHI

IN REPLY REFER TO:

LATE TESTIMONY

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097**

February 7, 2008

TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

HOUSE BILL NO. 3023

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY & MILITARY AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

We understand the intent of the bill, however we do not believe this bill is necessary as written. The Department of Transportation (DOT) understands the City and County of Honolulu is recommending amendments to address the concerns that prompted the creation of this legislation. We support these recommendations.

Representative Cindy Evans, Chair
Representative Joseph Souki, Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Vice Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
Committee on Transportation

LATE TESTIMONY

Justin Woodson

Thursday, February 07, 2008

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I **strongly support the intent of HB 3023**, 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 they 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.

Besides extending the renewal period twenty-four months prior to expiration, a better option would be to allow expired driver's licenses of Active Duty Members to remain valid with proof of proper military documentation up to ninety days upon arrival to The United States or discharge from hospitalization. The military documentation would serve as a simple way of both verify active duty deployment and would also alleviate any potential confusion if in fact a Serviceman is approached by any Police Officer while driving. An amendment of this nature to current statute would solve this problematic issue.

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.