

House Committee on Judiciary

**Testimony in support of SB 2245**  
Relating to unattended children in motor vehicles

Tuesday, March 25, 2008, 4:05 p.m.  
House Conference Room 325

Dear members of the committee:

**LATE TESTIMONY**

My name is Jenny Manog from the University of Hawaii School of Social Work. I am writing to you in support of SB2245, relating to unattended children in motor vehicles.

After reading the bill, I did not realize that leaving children unattended in vehicles was problem: about 40% of deaths occur due to children being left unattended in vehicles. Children are fragile and need to be looked after at all times. It is said that the temperature inside the vehicle plays a major role in a child's death. Imagine if a child is left in the car for nearly an hour with an outside temperature of 85 degrees where the temperature inside the vehicle can reach 130 degrees. My family is surrounded with children and I would not want any of them left unattended inside a vehicle.

It is our responsibility as caregivers to provide them with the care they need and deserve as children. I strongly believe that if this bill becomes a law, it will decrease the amount of child deaths or unattended child incidents. It will change the attitude of people because of the consequence that the incident will carry.

Thank you for your consideration to this issue and the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Sincerely,

Jenny Manog

Elise E. Kolbrek  
[REDACTED]  
Honolulu HI, 96826  
[REDACTED]

LATE TESTIMONY

Re: SB 2245, Unattended Children in Motor Vehicles  
Hearing Date: Tuesday, March 25, 2008

Position: Support

Chairs Chun Oakland and Gabbard  
Hawaii House of Representatives  
Committees on Judiciary and Transportation

Chairs Oakland and Gabbard and Members of the Committee on JUD:

I am a social work student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and although I do not yet have any children of my own, I work with children in my job and have many friends with young children so I am particularly intimate in supporting this bill. I find this bill essential to Hawaii's future because it protects our keiki and they are our future. This bill proposes positive outcomes; safe keiki. There is no fault in bringing to attention the catastrophic outcome of unattended children in motor vehicles to Hawaii's communities by the means of fines. If this bill is passed, it will allow the police to take tangible action as well as produce community awareness in Hawaii- 'with awareness comes change.'

This bill proposes to make it a violation of the statewide traffic code to leave a child in a motor vehicle for five minutes or more by an adult. As a consequence or result of the violation, the adult will be fined as in relation to a speeding ticket. If passed, this act will be tested in every driver's examination as well as posted in rental vehicles to provide the renters with necessary knowledge of the outcome of the prohibition. With this law, our keiki will be more protected from tragic catastrophes caused by 'reckless unawareness.'

Please support this measure and our keiki. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.

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Elise E. Kolbrek