

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



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IN REPLY REFER TO:

March 27, 2008

TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

SENATE BILL NO. 3240, SD 1, HD 1

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

We support the bill, which allows the expired driver's license of a member of the United States armed forces on active federal service outside of the country, to remain valid for 90 days upon return to the United States. We believe this will help make for a smoother transition for military personnel returning home from active duty. This is one way we can support our military men and women.

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DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICES
CITY & COUNTY OF HONOLULU
DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLE, LICENSING AND PERMITS
ADMINISTRATION
P.O. BOX 30300
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MUFI HANNEMANN
MAYOR



JEFF J. COELHO
DIRECTOR

DENNIS A. KAMIMURA
LICENSING ADMINISTRATOR

March 24, 2008

The Honorable Tommy Waters, Chair
and Committee Members
Committee on Judiciary
House of Representatives
State of Hawaii
State Capitol, Room 302
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Waters and Committee Members:

Subject: S.B. No. 2094 SD2 HD1, Relating to Driver Licenses

The City and County of Honolulu and the Counties of Hawaii, Kauai and Maui are in favor of S.B. No. 2094 SD2 HD1 which waives the requirement for the knowledge test if an applicant has a valid license issued from another United States jurisdiction, province of Canada or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Since the majority of jurisdictions have adopted uniform motor vehicle laws, this bill will allow for similar reciprocity that is currently permitted for commercial driver's license in accordance with Section 286-236(g), HRS.

The City and County of Honolulu and the Counties of Hawaii, Kauai and Maui urges your favorable action on S.B. No. 2094 SD1 HD1.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis A. Kamimura".

DENNIS A. KAMIMURA
Licensing Administrator

DAK:bk

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

Justin Woodson

Thursday, March 27, 2008

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. I **strongly support SB 3240 hd1**, relating to motor vehicle drivers licenses and The United States of America's Armed Forces.

I was contacted by Adam Suyat, Captain, United States Army, regarding the issue of Armed Servicemen and motor vehicle driver's license renewal. After reading his correspondence, it was apparent that there were certain flaws encompassed in current Hawaii Revised Statute, which unintentionally disfavored active duty military personnel in particular uncontrollable circumstances, attempting to renew their driver's licenses.

Specifically, 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. SB 3240 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.

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