



*A trade association of property  
and casualty insurance companies*

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**Alison Powers**  
Executive Director

## TESTIMONY OF ALISON POWERS

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SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY  
Representative Jon Riki Karamatsu, Chair  
Representative Ken Ito, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 9, 2009  
2:00 p.m.

### **HB 981**

Chair Karamatsu, Vice Chair Ito and members of the Transportation Committee, my name is Alison Powers, Executive Director of Hawaii Insurers Council. Hawaii Insurers Council is a non-profit trade association of property and casualty insurance companies licensed to do business in Hawaii. Member companies underwrite approximately 60% of all property and casualty insurance premiums in the state.

Hawaii Insurers Council attended many of the Task Force meetings and we are appreciative of the opportunity to participate. While we support efforts to reduce drunk driving, we continue to **oppose provisions** in Act 171 (SLH 2008) and **H.B. 981** which expand the proof of financial responsibility (SR 22) exemptions to include first offense highly intoxicated drivers. HIC members believe that SR 22s for intoxicated driving should be reinstated as it serves as a tool for the insurance industry to properly price the risk of future bad driving behavior. If bad drivers do not pay their fair share, good drivers will pay more.

In addition, without the SR 22 requirement, insurers may request more traffic abstracts, which will increase insurers' administrative costs and these costs will eventually be passed on to the consumer. The cost of a single traffic abstract is a statutory minimum

of \$7 and as high as \$10 for those insurers that use a vendor to access driving record information.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.