

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR



BRENNON T. MORIOKA  
DIRECTOR

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

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

February 9, 2009

TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

SENATE BILL NO. 1615

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, INTERNATIONAL AND  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Senate Bill 1615 permits the drivers' examiner to waive the knowledge test of the rules of the road for applicants holding a valid driver's license from any other state of the United States, territories under the jurisdiction of the United States, and countries such as the Republic of Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

**The Department supports the intent of this bill**, but has concerns about including countries outside the U.S. jurisdiction.

We agree that reciprocity should apply to any of the political units and divisions of the United States. However, individuals from countries outside of the U.S. jurisdiction should be required to take both the knowledge and road tests. Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and Republic of Palau have not been within U.S. jurisdiction since they became sovereign.

DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICES  
**CITY & COUNTY OF HONOLULU**  
DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLE, LICENSING AND PERMITS  
ADMINISTRATION  
P.O. BOX 30300  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96820-0300

MUFI HANNEMANN  
MAYOR



DANA TAKAHARA-DIAS  
DIRECTOR

DENNIS A KAMIMURA  
LICENSING ADMINISTRATOR

February 6, 2009

The Honorable J. Kalani English, Chair  
and Committee Members  
Committee on Transportation, International  
and Intergovernmental Affairs  
The Senate  
State of Hawaii  
State Capitol, Room 205  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair English and Committee Members:

Subject: S.B. No. 1615, Relating to Driver Licenses

The City and County of Honolulu and the Counties of Hawaii, Kauai and Maui agree with the intent of S.B. No. 1615 which waives the requirement for the knowledge test if an applicant has a valid license issued from another United States jurisdiction, provinces of Canada or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, but oppose the addition of the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau and Republic of the Marshall Island.

We are opposed to the inclusion of the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Island, and the Republic of Palau because the driver licensing programs for these three nations have not been reviewed by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, or the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators. As such, we do not know what standards are used for the written rules of the road test or the performance road test. Additionally, these nations are not a participant of the United Nations Convention of Road Traffic and therefore their driver's licenses are not recognized as being valid for operation of a vehicle in almost all the United States jurisdictions. Based upon a recent survey of U.S. and Canadian jurisdictions, only the states of Colorado and Idaho recognize licenses issued by these three nations for waiver of written and road tests. The States of Illinois and New York recognize only the licenses issued by the Republic of the Marshall Island and the State of Missouri recognizes the license issued by the Republic of Palau.

We recommend that S.B. No. 1615 be amended by deleting these three nations.

The Honorable J. Kalani English, Chair  
and Committee Members  
February 6, 2009  
Page 2

Since the majority of U.S. jurisdictions and territories 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 urge your favorable action on S.B. No. 1615, with our recommended amendments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis A. Kamimura". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

DENNIS A. KAMIMURA  
Licensing Administrator