



THE JUDICIARY, STATE OF HAWAII

House Committee on Transportation
The Honorable Joseph M. Souki, Chair
The Honorable Karen Leilani Awana, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 11, 2009, 8:30 a.m. (Decision Making)
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

by
Janice Yamada
Adult Client Services Branch Administrator

(LATE TESTIMONY)

Bill No. and Title: House Bill No. 1159, Relating to Highway Safety\

Purpose: Modifies the current reckless driving law to include defined penalties for first-time offenders and repeat offenders guilty of one or more traffic violations under the State's Traffic Code.

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary takes no position on House Bill No. 1159 which clarifies the penalties imposed for first-time offenders and repeat offenders guilty of reckless driving.

However, of concern to the Judiciary is that this measure would require a person committing the offense of reckless driving to be sentenced to a mandatory course of instruction for anger management or driver education training or both. During the past year, there were 966 new cases filed for Reckless Driving under Section 291-2 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes. If these cases had been referred to the Driver's Education Program there would have been a significant increase in the workload requiring additional resources in both personnel and driver education classes. In addition to this, the Driver's Education program currently does not have an anger management course and we would need to contract for this service at an additional cost to the Judiciary.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.