

House Committee on Judiciary

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

In Support of HB 1190- Relating to Traffic Accidents Investigations

Aloha Chair Karamatsu, Vice Chair Ken Ito and members of the Judiciary committee

I am Flor Martinez, a broadcaster of KNDI and a retired employee of Department of Foreign Affairs.

I strongly support HB 1190 that would expedite traffic accident investigations. This bill allows Police Department of each county, under their full authority to coordinate investigation of traffic accidents, especially fatal accidents, in no more efficient and effective way.

By coordinating investigation of accidents with all other involved authorities and parties including instant onsite medical examiners presence, time of road blocks can be significantly shortened.

This will reduce loss of working hours for working people, reduce loss of productivity for businesses and reduce loss of educational opportunities for our children.

With already existing traffic congestion and limited major roadways and highways, the passage of HB 1190 is "very urgent and crucial to our community and our economy.

Thank you for allowing me to testify

Testimony in Support of HB 1190HB 1190

Before the House Judiciary Committee

February 2, 2010

Dear Chairman Karamatsu and Honorable Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I am LTC Soo Ling Lo, of the US Army Reserves. I am here to testify in favor of HB 1190. Over a year ago there was a pedestrian traffic fatality on Ft. Weaver Road. The body was determined dead at 0600 hours, but the body was not picked up until 1100 hours. Meantime, the road was closed to traffic for 5 hours. This is the reason that we need to amend our laws.

What happens is once the paramedic has made a determination that the person has died, they are no longer responsible and will not have anything to do with the body. The body is now under the jurisdiction of the medical examiner. Under the current law, the police only call for the medical examiner after their investigation has been completed. The police investigation could take hours. Meanwhile the motorists are impacted, as they are held at a standstill while the body lies on the pavement covered by a white sheet.

This bill simply asks that the medical examiner be called to the scene once a fatality has been confirmed. Depending on the time of the day or day of the week, the response time of the medical examiner could also be hours. By notifying the medical examiner right away and allowing the medical examiner to conduct his/her investigation with the police also conduct their investigation would definitely expedite freeway or highway clearance.

Our roadway system is very limited, every little improvement helps.

I respectfully ask for the passage of this bill. Thank you for allowing me to testify.