



DOWNTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 13

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**Testimony of
Thomas Smyth, Board Member**

LATE TESTIMONY

**Before the
House Committee on Transportation
Monday February 2, 2009
9:00 am Room 309
On
HB 145 Relating to Highway Safety**

Chair Souki, Vice Chair Awana and Members of the Committee:

The Downtown Neighborhood Board strongly supports HB 145 that authorizes the counties to implement a red light camera system. This bill would reinstate the basic authority to conduct this much needed safety operation on those streets and roads where accidents are most likely to happen. It is unfortunate that the previous authorization ten years ago was never implemented.

The Downtown and Chinatown areas have many intersections that are dangerous for both pedestrians and other drivers. Only three blocks from the Capitol at the Corner of Vineyard Blvd. and Punchbowl St., a red light camera system was installed under the provisions of Act 234, SLH 1998. It was never turned on but the poles and cabling are still in place and we feel it could finally be used as an inexpensive but effective test for such a system.

This measure appears to have taken the experience in more than 25 cities around the mainland and in many other nations into account to insure an effective and financially sound system. Such systems do save lives and improve driver awareness and safety. We strongly urge this committee to move HB 145 forward for further public consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.





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LATE TESTIMONY

February 2, 2009

To: Representative Joe Souki, Chair, House Committee on Transportation;
Representative Karen Awana, Vice Chair; and members of the Committee

From: Arkie Koehl, Chairman – Public Policy Committee, MADD-Hawaii

Re: House Bill 145 – Relating to Highway Safety

I am Arkie Koehl, speaking in support of House Bill 145 on behalf of the membership of MADD-Hawaii.

Being vitally interested in highway safety, the members of MADD-Hawaii endorse measures to protect our citizens by making enforcement of traffic laws more effective. Sometimes, as with cameras to detect red light running, such measures are not directly related to MADD's positions on impaired driving. Nevertheless, we believe that a disproportionate number of traffic light violators are likely to be impaired, making our support for their citation a logical expression of MADD's goal to prevent drunk driving.

We encourage the committee to pass this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.