

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF HB 2297, HD2  
RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES SUN SCREENING DEVICES

By:

Tommy Silva, President / CEO – T&T Tinting Specialists, Inc  
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To:

Senate Committee Transportation / Int. & Intergovernmental Affairs  
Senator J. Kalani English, Chair

Monday, March 8, 2010; 1:15 pm  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

My name is Tommy Silva and I have been in the window tinting business for more than 30 years and my company T&T Tinting Specialists, Inc. has tinted the windows of more than 250,000 vehicles on Oahu alone.

Over the past 3 decades, I have been an avid and vocal supporter of safe auto tinting laws for the State of Hawaii and have testified here on behalf of the industry many times over that period.

I strongly support **HB 2297 HD2** which adds a provision which reads: "Transparent sun screening materials applied to the AS-1 portion of the windshield that comply with federal law." However, I do have a concern about removing the section that reads ***"or no lower than four inches below the top of the windshield, when measured from the middle point of the bottom edge of the top windshield molding if no AS-1 markings can be found in the left or right upper margin of the windshield"***; because that section was added as an amendment back in the early 90's to allow vehicles with front windshields that did NOT have an AS-1 marking to continue to be allowed to have the four inch visor strip at the top edge of the windshield. Removing that section now could create mass misunderstandings at the Safety Inspection Stations who would now be instructed to fail these vehicles that currently have a legal 4" visor strip, but have no AS-1 marking on their front windshield.

The front windshield on most vehicles is typically the largest window on a vehicle, yet the current glazing does not reduce *any* heat and only blocks *some* of the UV rays.

This proposed amendment will allow the use of the most recent technological breakthrough in Clear *"Nano-Ceramic"* Window Film Technology, also known as *"smart films"* that reduce 99.9% of the UV and almost half the heat, but does not reduce the light transmission below the Federal minimum standard of 70% VLT (Visible Light Transmission).

This technology boosts UV-A and UV-B protection up to the Skin Cancer Foundation endorsed value of 99.9%, along with reducing an unprecedented 43% of the heat that normally passes through the windshield into the vehicle. Over 500,000 vehicles make the daily trek in the morning and afternoon rush hours from the West side to town and back, while driving directly into the sun rising then the sun setting at the end of the day. This exemption would allow these and other drivers much more comfort, energy savings and safety than ever before.

Even though this technology has only recently become available, four States (North Dakota, North Carolina, Virginia and Ohio) have already modified their State Laws to allow this new technology on front windshields, and many others are currently following suit to use the "greenest" technologies available to save energy and add comfort.

This bill allows our State Law to catch up with technology while completely complying with the Federal VLT minimums of 70% for the front windshield.

Our current law states that ***no film*** shall "encroach upon the AS-1 portion" of the windshield because when our current law was written back in 1982, this technology was not even dreamt of. This amendment leaves that strict condition in place, only adding that encroachment would be allowed **only if the film and glass combined still meet the 70% minimum Federal standard.**

Enforcement will be very simple as Safety Inspection Stations already meter the sides and back windows of every tinted vehicle annually; they would only need to add another quick test of the front windshield with *70% and higher readings passing and 69% and lower failing.*

Please support and pass this bill so that Hawaii will continue to be on the forefront of the "green energy movement" while providing the best safety, comfort and protection for Hawaii's drivers that are so fortunate to be able to drive in year-round tropical weather.

Thank you for your favorable support,

Tommy Silva  
President / CEO