

LATE TESTIMONY

Honorable Joseph Souki, Chair  
Committee on Transportation  
House of Representatives, Hawaii

Hearing: February 3, 2010, 9:00 a.m.; Room 309

Re: HB 2726 – Relating To Taxation

Chair Souki and Honorable Committee Members,

My name is Paul Kopel and I am the Chair of the Legislative Committee for Catrala-Hawaii. Catrala's membership consists of the major u-drive companies in Hawaii and the many businesses which support the industry

Catrala does not oppose this bill and leaves it to the discretion of this Legislature.

Catrala's only suggestion is that along with this bill the Legislature also pass the Highway Modernization Bill which died in conference committee last year. Catrala supported the House version of the modernization bill that was fair to the u-drive industry and in part sought to bolster the needs of the highway fund that reportedly will be bankrupt sometime during the years 2010/2011. As you know the surcharge payments exempted by this bill would be going to support the highway fund if there was no exemption as provided by this bill. Thus, this bill is arguably somewhat of a further drain on the highway fund now heading toward bankruptcy.

Finally, Catrala supports and has no objections to electric vehicles. The u-drive industry always seeks to meet the demands of their customers. However, to increase customer demand we all recognize that a sufficient number of vehicles must be produced to meet such demands and the needs of the u-drive industry and its customers. Also, there must be readily accessible fueling stations to meet the needs of such vehicle operators including those of our tourist who frequent and travel about our beautiful islands.

Thank you for allowing us to testify.