

LATE TESTIMONY

Support for HB 2952:

"If rules had been in place, maybe my son would still be alive today."

I support this Legislation."

Ernesto Baltazar, father of Gerald Baltazar, 17 year-old killed on moped in Manoa
2011 Luhlani
Honolulu, HI 96819

'Family Remembers Teen Killed in Moped Crash

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A Kalihi family is dealing with everyone's worst nightmare ... the death of a loved one.

Gerald Baltazar, 17, died Saturday night in a moped accident.

It happened just after 10 p.m. at a busy five-way intersection in Manoa.

Police say Baltazar's moped ran a stop sign then crashed into a station wagon that was making a left turn from Lowrey Avenue onto Manoa Road.

"Apparently the moped and another moped were racing or at least driving at a high rate of speed," said Lt. Darren Izumo of the Honolulu police department.

The victim's sister, Mary Baltazar, held back tears as she spoke about her younger brother who she says loved working on mopeds and riding with friends.

"His moped was pretty much his life I never see him do anything besides his moped," she said.

Gerald was the middle child of two brothers and two sisters.

"Although we don't get along at times I know he loved all of us," she explained. "He was very easy to get along with."

Friends and family posted messages on Twitter in memory of Gerald, who was in the middle of his senior year at Farrington High School.

They also gathered at a makeshift memorial near the crash site to remember him.

Witnesses say his moped slammed into a station wagon that was making a left turn onto Manoa Road from Lowrey Avenue.

"The moped was just trashed and it was really busted up and there were a lot of little pieces around the area," said Manoa resident, Kenny Matsunaga.

The 26-year-old driver of the car was not injured.

Police say Gerald was not alone the night of the crash.

"Apparently there were several mopeds involved either racing or maybe possibly holding back traffic," said Lt. Izumo. "We have information some of them stopped after impact."

But police say the other moped riders left the scene when police and emergency responders arrived.

"His friends stopped and my neighbor heard them and then they talk a little bit something on their cell phone and then they left," said Matsunaga.

Neighbors who live nearby described what they saw.

"There were a bunch of similar aged kids around him and two of them had just started to they said he had no pulse and they started to do CPR," said Manoa resident, Mark Nugent.



 **Slideshow**

Gerald Baltazar, 17

Police are asking anyone who may have witnessed the crash to come forward.

"He was really a nice guy I notice he got along well with other people he never had any problems," said Baltazar. "Just seeing him home I'm going to miss him."