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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 01, 2009 11:28 AM  
**To:** TIATestimony  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB123 on 2/2/2009 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for TIA 2/2/2009 2:45:00 PM SB123

Conference room: 229  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: Yes  
Submitted by: Setsuko Teramoto  
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Submitted on: 2/1/2009

LATE

Comments:  
RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF HEARING ON SB123  
February 2, 2009, 1:15 P.M., Room 224

THE SENATE  
THE TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2009  
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, INTERNATIONAL AND  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS  
Senator J. Kalani English, Chair  
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

RE: TESTIMONY FOR SB123 RELATING TO MOTOR  
VEHICLES

Chairman English, Vice Chairman Gabbard, and Committee Members:

I'm Setsuko Teramoto, a retired public school librarian and constituent of the 10th Senatorial District. I'm concerned with SB123 because I own a 36-year old certified antique car with an assigned Horseless Carriage number plate.

Thank you for this opportunity to present my testimony regarding SB123. I am gratified that my request for an update of the law governing antique motor vehicles is being considered.

At present, it is not clear as to whether or not owners of antique vehicles with Horseless Carriage license plates are legally permitted to drive their cars on the roads and highways. On the one hand, I was told that although primarily a show car to be kept in the garage, I may drive my certified antique car occasionally for exhibition, maintenance and a few other purposes and on the other hand, I was warned that the law prohibits me from driving it at any time for any reason because it is exempted from the weight tax. SB123 aims to clarify this issue.

Additionally, I wish to request that we owners of Horseless Carriage vehicles be given the option to drive our cars beyond the limited-use provision, that we be given a choice to drive our cars on any road at will like any other car by paying the full required weight tax. This

provision if included in SB123 would liberate all Horseless Carriage vehicles, now and in the future, from the current restrictions placed on them. In other words, isn't it reasonable to give the owners of certified antique motor vehicles a chance for equal treatment? Shouldn't we be given the same privilege as that enjoyed by all other motorists?

It seems that the weight tax exemption for Horseless Carriage vehicles formed the basis of the restrictive law that was enacted many years ago, the applied rationale being that because no weight tax is paid, such vehicles may not be allowed on public roads. Today, let us be flexible and make a change. Enable us owners of cars with Horseless Carriage license plates to have the option to pay the weight tax and be free to drive anywhere as we please. Let us adopt a new meaningful law that offers an alternative to accommodate individual preferences.

Please refer to the September 24, 2008 memorandum from Lance Ching, Legislative Reference Bureau researcher, addressed to then Honorable Kirk Caldwell, Representative, 24th District. Version 2 is presented as an alternative in a draft legislation which defines the goal that I believe we should seek.

I believe that updating the existing law by broadening the scope and giving individuals a choice will show that Hawaii's motor vehicle laws are sensible, progressive and in tune with modern times. Let this new law be a model to be upheld by all freedom-loving citizens of our country.

Respectfully submitted,



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