

DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICES
CITY & COUNTY OF HONOLULU
DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLE, LICENSING AND PERMITS
ADMINISTRATION
P.O. BOX 30300
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96820-0300

MUFI HANNEMANN
MAYOR



GAIL Y. HARAGUCHI
DIRECTOR

DENNIS A. KAMIMURA
LICENSING ADMINISTRATOR

March 10, 2010

The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
and Committee Members
Committee on Health
House of Representatives
State of Hawaii
State Capitol, Room 441
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Yamane and Committee Members:

Subject: S.B. No. 2266, Relating to Driver Licensing

The City and County of Honolulu is opposed to S.B. No. 2266 which allows driver license applicants to indicate their blood type on their driver license application form and print their blood type on their driver license card.

We are concerned that indicating an unverified blood type on the driver license card may result in the unintended serious medical and possible legal consequences of medical personnel relying on the printed blood type as being correct and verified.

If medical personnel will continue to conduct blood test to determine blood type rather than use the blood type information on a person's driver license, it does not make sense for such information to appear on the driver's license.

The City and County of Honolulu urges that S.B. No. 2266 be held.

Sincerely,


Gail Y. Haraguchi
Director

Written Testimony Presented To the
House Committee on Health
March 12, 2010

RE: SB 2266, SSCR 2004
Relating to Driver Licensing

Aloha, Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Nishimoto and members of the House Committee on Health.

My name is Jerris R. Hedges, MD, and I am offering testimony today as an emergency medicine physician and physician administrator with more than 20 years experience in academic training in emergency medicine, including in my role as Dean of the John A. Burns School of Medicine.

I am hoping that input from me and some of my colleagues in the field (including our Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs and University Clinical Educational and Research Associates Chief Medical Officer Dr. Roy Magnusson) will be helpful as you ponder a measure to allow driver license applicants to voluntarily indicate their blood type on driver licenses.

We applaud the good intentions behind this measure. But due to current safety processes, it is probably unneeded and could be harmful.

We are concerned that this bill may not achieve its desired result. Aside from incorrect information being entered onto driver licenses, there are other concerns regarding practices that may follow from this bill.

Outside of combat situations in which the risks of transfusion reactions are small in otherwise healthy soldiers with military determined "dog tag" blood type information, blood transfusions in the civilian setting require one of the following approaches:

- Emergency blood typing with immediate screening for major blood incompatibilities
- Administration of O-negative blood (O-positive in men or older women) while a complete blood typing is confirmed

Health care providers and institutions that administer blood based upon a motor vehicle drivers license stated blood type (rather than the emergency approach described above) would assume significant liability risk were an adverse transfusion reaction to occur.

Given the liability risk that would likely discourage actual use of the motor vehicle drivers license blood type information and the cost of administering such a program, the value of such a program to Hawai'i remains unclear. At the very least, advice from an expert in transfusion medicine is advised.

Mahalo for allowing us to testify.

Sincerely,
Jerris R. Hedges, MD
Roy Magnusson, MD
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