

**WRITTEN  
ONLY**

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



CHIYOME LEINAALA FUKINO, M.D.  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P.O. Box 3378  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

**House Committee on Judiciary**

**SB 2449 RELATING TO HIGHWAY SAFETY**

**Testimony of Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.  
Director of Health**

**March 18, 2010**

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health supports SB 2449. Since the enactment of Act 72  
2 (Graduated Driver's Licensing Law) in 2005, there has been a reduction of fatal and major crashes  
3 among 16 and 17 year-old drivers.

4 **Fiscal Implications:** None

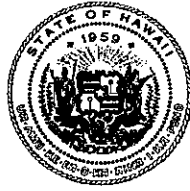
5 **Purpose and Justification:** SB 2449 deletes the sunset provision in the current Graduated Driver's  
6 Licensing (GDL) law, which allows the existing program to remain permanent. The Hawaii's GDL  
7 program consists of some key best practice provisions created by NHTSA and the American Association  
8 of Motor Vehicle Administrators that is intended to reduce the number of teen drivers involved in fatal  
9 and major crashes. According to DOT crash data 2006-2008, Hawaii's GDL program is associated with  
10 a 27% decrease in 16 year- old drivers and a 14% decrease in 17 year- old drivers involved in major  
11 traffic crashes. Hawaii's GDL program includes provisions to reduce teen driving at night and  
12 transporting multiple minor-aged passengers, unless accompanied by a parent or guardian. There were  
13 significant reductions in both types of crashes involving 16 year-old drivers, resulting in an estimated 19  
14 fewer nighttime crashes and 17 fewer crashes involving multiple minor-aged passengers each year. In

1 addition, the number of 16 and 17 year-old drivers who were involved in fatal traffic crashes decreased  
2 from 15 over the pre-GDL period (2003-2005) to only 6 during the post-GDL period of (2006-2008).

3 The Graduated Driver's Licensing programs on a local and national level have proven to be  
4 successful at reducing major traffic related crashes and fatalities among the riskiest age group of drivers.

5 We ask that you continue to keep our younger drivers and other road users safe by supporting SB2449.

6 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

March 18, 2010

TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

SENATE BILL NO. 2449

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

The Department of Transportation supports this bill because it makes the statutory requirements for provisional driver's licenses for those under the age of 18 permanent.

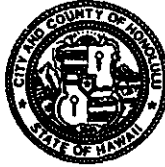
The purpose of provisional licensing when passed by the 2005 Legislature under Act 72, was to improve traffic safety by establishing a driver licensing program consisting of a graduated driver licensing in three stages for persons under the age of 18. Prior to its effective date on January 9, 2006, teen drivers under the age of 18 comprised of 3.4 percent of licensed drivers. Although this age group of drivers is a small percentage of the total drivers in Hawaii, they represented 10 percent of all drivers involved in collisions.

Since the new driver licensing system went into effect, the number of 16-year olds with driver license declined 18 percent (less than 500 drivers). The number of crashes associated with this age group decreased 27 percent (66 fewer crashes involving 16 year olds) and another 14 percent of 17 year olds (52 fewer crashes). Another significant change has been the number of evening collisions involving this age group. Because of the restrictions imposed between 11:00 PM and 5:00 AM, there have been 19 fewer crashes at night involving 16 year olds and 17 fewer crashes involving multiple minor-aged passengers each year.

The most important change that we have seen, has been the number of deaths among teens. There was a 60 percent reduction in fatalities involving 16 year olds (5, down to 2 deaths) from the pre-GDL compared with the post-GDL period. There was a similar reduction involving 17 year olds during this same period (10, down to 4 deaths).

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 16, 2010

The Honorable Jon Riki Karamatsu, Chair  
and Committee Members  
Committee on Judiciary  
House of Representatives  
State of Hawaii  
State Capitol, Room 302  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Karamatsu and Committee Members:

Subject: S.B. No. 2449, Relating to Driver Licensing

The City and County of Honolulu is in favor of S.B. No. 2449, which will make the graduated licensing program permanent.

Our driver licensing examiners have found that the completion of the requirements of the graduated licensing program have resulted in more confident, knowledgeable, and experienced minors being administered the road tests, as compared to minor applicants before the program was implemented in January 2006.

The City and County of Honolulu urges your favorable action on S.B. No. 2449.

Sincerely,

  
for Gail Y. Haraguchi  
Director



Mothers Against Drunk Driving HAWAII  
745 Fort Street, Suite 303  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
Phone (808) 532-6232  
Fax (808) 532-6004  
[www.maddhawaii.com](http://www.maddhawaii.com)

March 18, 2010

To: Representative Jon Riki Karamatsu, Chair – House Committee on Judiciary;  
Representative Ken Ito, Vice Chair; and members of the committee

From: Carol McNamee - Public Policy Committee, MADD Hawaii

Re: Senate Bill 2449 – Relating to Driver Licensing

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I am Carol McNamee, testifying on behalf of the Hawaii members of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, in strong support of SB 2449, relating to driver licensing. This bill amends Act 72 of the 2005 legislative session which established a graduated driver's license system in Hawaii. SB 2449 removes the clause which will repeal the Act on January 9, 2011.

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death and injury among teenagers, and crash risk is highest among the most inexperienced teens. According to the CDC, drivers 16 years of age experience crashes almost three times as often as more experienced drivers aged 18 to 19 years.

Data reported by the Department of Health shows that Hawaii is no exception to national and international findings that GDL (*Graduated Driver Licensing*) reduces crashes among teen drivers. First, it appears that teens are waiting longer to obtain a driver's license. The number of 16 year-olds with driver's licenses has declined 18% after the implementation of GDL, from an average of nearly 2,900 to less than 2,400.

Secondly, Hawaii's teen crashes have been reduced. GDL was associated with a 27% decrease in proportion of 16 year-olds among drivers involved in major traffic crashes and a 17% decrease in the proportion of 17 year old drivers in crashes.

Third, the number of 16 year-old drivers who were involved in fatal traffic crashes decreased from 5 over the pre-GDL period of 2003-2005 to only 2 during the post-GDL period of 2006-2008. There was a similar reduction in the number of 17 year-old drivers involved in fatal crashes from 10 (pre-GDL) to 4 (post-GDL).

Both national research and the Department of Health report of Hawaii's experience after implementing a GDL law in 2006 support the success of the three stage drivers licensing program for new teen drivers. Therefore, MADD strongly supports the continuation of our law through the passage of SB 2449.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

\*The report was supported primarily by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and in part by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

To: Committee on Judiciary  
Date: Thursday, March 18, 2010; 2:45 pm  
Place: Conference Room 325  
From: Chris Dein-Gaughen, Private Citizen  
RE: Testimony in Strong Support of SB2449. Related to Driver Licensing

To: Chairman Karamatsu and Committee Members:

I am in strong support of SB2449, which makes the statutory requirements for provisional driver's licenses for persons under the age of eighteen permanent.

I request that you add the following amendment, "**or until the age of 18, whichever comes first.**"

As currently written, the law penalizes a youth who is 17 ½ years old or older, because the provisional license is required to be held for a minimum of 6 months. To obtain a provisional license, youth must take a formal driver's education course, which results in better prepared drivers. For safer roadways, youth should be encouraged to gain experience by getting a provisional license - not held back from getting a full license at age 18 due to it.

Your consideration is asked to add the following amendment: *Has satisfactorily held a provisional license for at least six months* "**or until the age of eighteen, whichever comes first**".

Thank you.

Chris Dein-Gaughen  
Waikoloa

To: Committee on Judiciary, Conference Room 325  
Thursday, March 18, 2010, 2:45 pm

From: Kapono Gaughen, Kealakehe High School student, Hawaii Island

RE: Testimony in Strong Support of SB2449. Related to Driver Licensing

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To: Chairman Karamatsu and Committee Members:

I am in strong support of SB2449, but ask that you add the following amendment: *Has satisfactorily held a provisional license for at least six months* "**or until the age of eighteen, whichever comes first**".

Not being able to apply for a full license at 18, if you have a Provisional License that you have not held for at least 6 months, is a problem. To get a Provisional License you must take Driver's Ed. But, there are now students (those older than 17 ½) that are avoiding getting a Provisional License because of the need to wait 6 months to apply for a full license, and so not bothering to take Driver's Ed, thus they are not benefiting from that learning experience. This leads to less safe and experienced drivers.

Please add the amendment "**or until the age of eighteen, whichever comes first**".

Thank you for your time.

Kapono Gaughen  
Kealakehe High School Student



**karamatsu1-Kenji**

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**From:** Carolyn Fujioka [carolyn.fujioka.atxn@statefarm.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 17, 2010 2:07 PM  
**To:** JUDtestimony  
**Subject:** SB2449 JUD 3/18 2:45

Testimony to the House Committee on Judiciary

Thursday, March 18, 2010 2:45 p.m.

Conference Room 325, State Capitol

Re: SB 2449 Relating to Driver Licensing

Chair Karamatsu, Vice Chair Ito and committee members:

I am Carolyn Fujioka on behalf of State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company. **State Farm supports SB 2449.**

Currently enacted in 45 states and the District of Columbia, Graduated Licensing laws have been highly successful in reducing the crash rate of young drivers.

As stated in the National Safety Council 2007 GDL Symposium, studies estimate that states with strong GDL laws experience a reduction in the number of crashes involving teen drivers of 20% to 30%. A June 2006 study by John Hopkins University found that those states with comprehensive GDL laws that included nighttime and passenger restrictions showed up to a 20% decrease in fatalities among 16-year-old drivers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2449.