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

IN REPLY REFER TO:

March 8, 2010

TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

SENATE BILL NO. 2449

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

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).

**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
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In reply, please refer to:
File:

House Committee on Transportation

SB 2449 RELATING TO HIGHWAY SAFETY

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

March 8, 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.

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 4, 2010

The Honorable Joseph M. Souki, Chair
and Committee Members
Committee on Transportation
House of Representatives
State of Hawaii
State Capitol, Room 403
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Souki and Committee Members:

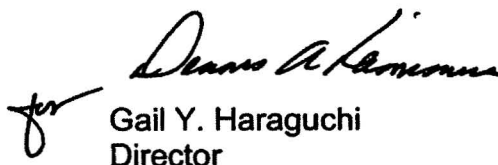
Subject: S.B. No. 2449, Relating to Driver Licensing

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,


Gail Y. Haraguchi
Director

awana1-Enoka

From: Carolyn Fujioka [carolyn.fujioka.atxn@statefarm.com]
Sent: Friday, March 05, 2010 10:07 AM
To: TRNtestimony
Subject: SB2449 TRN- 3/8 9:30

Testimony to the House Committee on Transportation

Monday, March 8, 2010 9:30 a.m.

Conference Room 309, State Capitol

Re: SB 2449 Relating to Driver Licensing

Chair Souki, Vice Chair Awana 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.



Mothers Against Drunk Driving HAWAII
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March 8, 2010

To: Representative Joseph M. Souki, Chair – House Committee on Transportation;
Representative Karen Leinani Awana, Vice Chair; and members of the
committee

From: Carol McNamee - Public Policy Committee, MADD Hawaii

Re: Senate Bill 2449 – Relating to Driver Licensing

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.