

SB 2455

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

January 29, 2010

The Honorable J. Kalani English, Chair
and Committee Members
Committee on Transportation, International
and Intergovernmental Affairs
The Senate
State of Hawaii
State Capitol, Room 205
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair English and Committee Members:

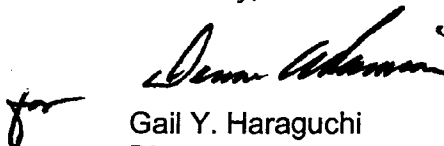
Subject: S.B. No. 2455, Relating to Motor Vehicle Sun Screening Devices

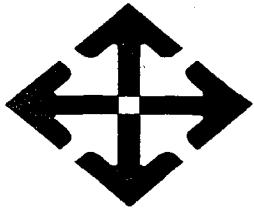
The City and County of Honolulu has concerns with the clarity of S.B. No. 2455 which will exempt the use of transparent sun screening materials applied to a vehicle's windshield.

In order to ensure there is no misinterpretation of this exemption, we recommend that the new subsection (11) read:

(11) Transparent sun screening materials, when applied to the AS-1 portion of the windshield, meet the requirements of the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 205.

Sincerely,


Gail Y. Haraguchi
Director



The Hawaii Business League

Century Square 1188 Bishop St., Ste 1003 Honolulu, HI 96813-3304
Phone: (808) 533-6819 ♦ Facsimile: (808) 533-2739

February 1, 2010

Testimony To: Senate Committee on Transportation, International & Intergovernmental Affairs
Senator J. Kalani English, Chair

Presented By: Tim Lyons
President

Subject: S.B. 2455 – RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLE SUN SCREENING DEVICES

Chair English and Members of the Committee:

I am Tim Lyons, President of the Hawaii Business League, a small business service organization. We support this bill.

This bill has been offered in order to update the law as it relates to sun screening devices often called "tinted windows". When the law was passed many years ago it specifically provided that the only part of the windshield which could have a film on it was the upper four (4) inches known as the AS-1 line. This is that small narrow strip that you often see on windshields near the top that provides the driver with at least some relief from the sun.

Now however, new technology has brought forth a clear film which effectively screens out over 50% of the heat but does nothing to reduce the light transmission that passes through the windshield.

We specifically provided years ago that there could be no treatment of the windshield because at that time there was nothing that would reduce the heat and at the same time not reduce visibility.

The Committee should know that there is really no such thing as a "clear" windshield. In other words, even from the manufacturer when your car is first purchased, the windshield will often times, just based on its thickness and angle, reduce the light transmittance by 10% or 12%. The federal standard is that at least 70% of the light should be transmittable through the windshield.

Therefore, we request your favorable adoption of the amendment that this bill proposes which allows film on the windshield, as long as it still meets the federal minimum standards.

Thank you.

February 1, 2010

Testimony To: Senate Committee on Transportation, International & Intergovernmental Affairs
Senator J. Kalani English, Chair

Presented By: Tommy Silva, President
T & T Tinting Specialists, Inc.

Subject: S.B. 2455 – RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLE SUN SCREENING DEVICES.

Chair English and Members of the Committee:

My name is Tommy Silva and I have been in the window tinting business for more than 30 years and my company T&T Tinting Specialists, Inc. has tinted the windows of more than 250,000 vehicles on Oahu alone.

Over the past 3 decades, I have been an avid and vocal supporter of safe auto tinting laws for the State of Hawaii and have testified here on behalf of the industry many times over that period.

I strongly support **SB 2455** which adds a provision (Sec.1 d, paragraph 11) which reads:
"Transparent sun screening materials applied to the AS-1 portion of the windshield that comply with federal law."

The front windshield on most vehicles is typically the largest window on a vehicle, yet the current glazing does not reduce *any* heat and only blocks *some* of the UV rays.

This proposed amendment will allow the use of the most recent technological breakthrough in Clear "*Nano-Ceramic*" Window Film Technology, also known as "smart films" that reduce 99.9% of the UV and almost half the heat, but does not reduce the light transmission below the Federal minimum standard of 70% VLT (Visible Light Transmission).

This technology boosts UV-A and UV-B protection up to the Skin Cancer Foundation endorsed value of 99.9%, along with reducing an unprecedented 43% of the heat that normally passes through the windshield into the vehicle. Over 500,000 vehicles make the daily trek in the morning and afternoon rush hours from the West side to town and back, while driving directly into the sun rising then the sun setting at the end of the day. This exemption would allow these and other drivers much more comfort, energy savings and safety than ever before.

Even though this technology has only recently become available, four States (North Dakota, North Carolina, Virginia and Ohio) have already modified their State Laws to allow this new technology on front windshields, and many others are currently following suit to use the "greenest" technologies available to save energy and add comfort.

This bill allows our State Law to catch up with technology while completely complying with the Federal VLT minimums of 70% for the front windshield.

Our current law states that ***no film*** shall "encroach upon the AS-1 portion" of the windshield because when our current law was written back in 1982, this technology was not even dreamt of. This amendment leaves that strict condition in place, only adding that the encroachment would be allowed **only if the film and glass combined still meet the 70% minimum Federal standard.**

Enforcement will also be very simple as Safety Inspection Stations already meter the sides and back windows of every tinted vehicle annually; they would only need to add another quick test of the front windshield with *70% and higher readings passing and 69% and lower failing.*

Please support and pass this Bill so that Hawaii will continue to be on the forefront of the "green energy movement" while providing the best safety, comfort and protection for Hawaii's drivers that are so fortunate to be able to drive in year-round tropical weather.

Thank you for your favorable support,

February 1, 2010, 1:15 PM. In Conference Room 224

Testimony to: Senate Committee on Transportation, International & Intergovernmental Affairs
Senator J. Kalani English, Chair and Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

By Frank Frank Young, K&Y Auto Service, Honolulu Hawaii

RE: SB 2455 RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLE SUN SCREENING

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

I OPPOSE SB 2455

It is my understanding that the purpose of this Bill is to satisfy drivers who complain of heat from the front windshield. This Bill will cause substantially more harm than good.

The "AS1 portion" in this Bill is referring to the WHOLE LOWER PART of the windshield

- 1) The "AS1 portion" in this Bill is referring to the WHOLE LOWER PART of the windshield.
- 2) While the front windshield already has a laminant, adding an additional laminant can cause greater harm if any body part were to go through the windshield in an accident as the laminate will hold the glass together and if the body part recoils back into the vehicle, it will be like being sliced by a knife.
- 3) As with any tint, due to heat, sunlight, the tint over time, will bubble and cause major distortions for the driver.
- 4) Even with tint that meets the current 70% light passing through standard, the extreme slant of the front windshield will make it very difficult for law enforcement officers to see the driver of the vehicle and/or any weapons the driver may possess.
- 5) The factory laminate is between to layers of glass and is impervious to scratching, the aftermarket tint will be on the inside of the windshield and very vulnerable to scratching as is all aftermarket tint creating more visibility problems for drivers and dangers for pedestrians, especially in covered parking and at night.
- 6) As for the Periodic Motor Vehicle Inspection stations, this will become a nightmare in monitoring not only the 70% light passage but the quality of the visibility of the windshield.
- 7) Front windshield tint is popular will open a whole black market for illegal tint and consumers could be scammed with what they thought was legal and now are burdened with the cost of removing the tint that their kids or friend may have installed.

Safety to pedestrians and other vehicles on the road and especially in covered parking lots should be the concern of our Legislature, not the inconvenience of the heat from the front windshield. There are many products on the market that reduce heat such as a windshield screen when the vehicle is parked and there are dash covers which absorb most the heat. I urge you to choose public safety over vanity.

Sincerely,

Frank Young
K&Y Auto Service 593-2842