

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



GLENN M. OKIMOT
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
FORD N. FUCHIGAM
JADE BUTAY
RANDY GRUNE
JADINE URASAKI

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

IN REPLY REFER TO

February 13, 2012

**HB 2688
RELATING TO VEHICLES**

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

The Department of Transportation is in support of House Bill No. 2688 that will define "vehicle" in chapter 707 to be the same as in section 291E-1. It amends negligent injury offenses to include bodily injury to another person caused by the operation of a moped or vessel in a negligent manner.

Due to the increasing incidents involving the negligent operations of mopeds and vessels (jet skis), this bill will make operators more accountable for their actions when it involves the safety of others when operating these types of vehicles.

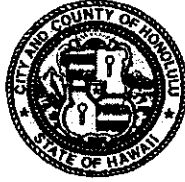
The Department of Transportation urges your committee to pass House Bill No. 2688 which will make operators of these types of vehicles more accountable for their actions and to save lives on roadways and waterways.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET · HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 529-3111 · INTERNET: www.honoluluupd.org



PETER B. CARLISLE
MAYOR

LOUIS M. KEALOHA
CHIEF

DAVE M. KAJIHIRO
MARIE A. McCAULEY
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE KK-LC

February 13, 2012

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

Dear Chair Souki and Members:

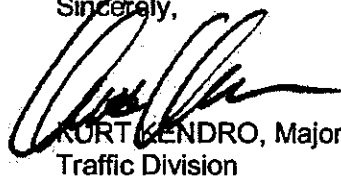
Subject: House Bill No. 2688, Relating to Vehicles

I am Kurt Kendro, Major of the Traffic Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.


The HPD supports the passage of House Bill No. 2688, Relating to Vehicles. Passage of this bill would change the element requirement of "motor vehicle" to "vehicle" and amend sections 707-705 and 707-706 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes. This would include vessels and mopeds in the negligent injury statutes.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

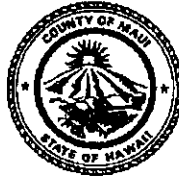
Sincerely,


KURT KENDRO, Major
Traffic Division

APPROVED:


for LOUIS M. KEALOHA
Chief of Police

ALAN M. ARAKAWA
Mayor



JOHN D. KIM
Prosecuting Attorney
ROBERT D. RIVERA
First Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF MAUI
150 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
PHONE (808) 270-7777 • FAX (808) 270-7625

CONTACT: PETER A. HANANO
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney
Appellate, Asset Forfeiture and Administrative Services Division

TESTIMONY

ON

HB 2688 - RELATING TO VEHICLES

February 13, 2012

The Honorable Joseph M. Souki
Chair
The Honorable Linda Ichiyama
Vice Chair
and Members
House Committee on Transportation

Chair Souki, Vice Chair Ichiyama and Members of the Committee on Transportation:

The Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Maui supports this measure.

HB 2688, Relating to Vehicles, proposes to create a definition of "vehicle" in Hawai'i Revised Statutes ("HRS") Chapter 707 that is identical to HRS Chapter 291E, and change "motor vehicle" in the negligent injury statutes to "vehicle." This will make clear that the operation of mopeds and vessels are included in the negligent homicide statutes, and allow negligent injury statutes to include the operation of mopeds and vessels.

The Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Maui, SUPPORTS the passage of this bill. Within the past year, we had two fatalities in Maui County waters involving boats versus swimmers/divers incidents. Also during this time, we had one boat versus swimmer incident resulting in the partial amputation of an arm. This is in addition to numerous reported "near miss" incidents. Also, we are aware of fatalities in moped collisions on Oahu. This bill will make clear that the operation of vessels and mopeds are included in the negligent homicide statutes. It will also add the operation of vessels and mopeds to the negligent injury statutes. We believe that this will result in increased operator awareness and safety on our streets and waters. Accordingly, we ask that the committee PASS HB 2688.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.