

**Testimony of Robert Loy
To the
House Committee Transportation
Wednesday February 1, 2012
9:00 AM
Conference Room 309
State Capitol**

Testimony in strong support for HB2702 relating to Beaches

As a resident of Waimanalo who spends at least an hour each day walking the long strand of Waimanalo Beach I can attest to the dangers and damages created by people who drive vehicles on the beach.

In 12 years of living in Waimanalo I have witnessed numerous vehicles, mostly trucks and other 4X4 vehicles, as well as many dirt bikes repeatedly use the beach as their private raceway. Literally, in some cases, racing with one another at speeds of at least 50 mph and more. In other cases they simply enjoy making huge doughnuts in the sand, including down to the edge of the water and even partly into the water.

These activities increase beach erosion by wind and surf and leave the longest stretch of white sandy beach on Oahu deeply rutted with tire tracks. These ruts are also an eyesore and make it very difficult for some folks to walk on the beach, especially our kupuna.

As President of the Waimanalo Beach Lots Association I have taken repeated complaints over the years from our residents who report having to dodge aggressive drivers on the beach. Some of these residents report that drivers have intentionally acted as if they were going to run them down as they walked on the beach. And often, dirt bike riders weave in and around folks lying or sitting on the beach... with no regard for public safety or the right of residents and visitors to enjoy State beaches without the roar of vehicle engines.

If there ever was a time when vehicles on the beach was acceptable in Hawaii that time has long since passed. People who drive on the beaches present an environmental and safety hazard to our land and people. And it is high time that the legislature took action to stop it.

Please pass HB 2702 for the benefit of Hawaii.

Robert Loy
Waimanalo, Hawaii