



Mothers Against Drunk Driving HAWAII
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LATE TESTIMONY

February 9, 2011

To: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair – House Committee on Education; Rep. Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair; and members of the Committee

Representative Faye Hanohano, Chair – House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs;
Rep. Chris Lee, Vice Chair; and members of the Committee

From: Arkie Koehl —Council Chairman - MADD Hawaii

Re: House Bill 657 – Relating to Driver Education

I am Arkie Koehl, offering testimony on behalf of the Hawaii members of Mothers Against Drunk Driving in support of HB 657.

The proposed measure recognizes the reality that although drinking under the age of 21 is illegal, young people still do it. And many of them then operate cars, motorcycles, mopeds, etc., in such a way as to constitute grave danger to themselves and others. Anything that can be done to educate youth about these violations of the laws of underage drinking, impaired driving, and “common sense,” should be encouraged by your Committees.

As an important addendum, MADD would like to point out that Hawaii’s “Use & Lose” law was enacted by the Legislature and signed into law as Act 203 in June of 2006 and is still widely unknown in the community. The law takes away, or delays the acquisition of, the drivers license of anyone under 21 caught consuming, possessing or purchasing alcohol, regardless of any vehicular involvement. It was based on research showing the enormous importance young people put on their driving privileges, and their fear of losing their license. MADD would hope that any increased educational efforts resulting from the passage of HB 657 would emphasize the powerful, but relatively unknown, Use & Lose law.

MADD Hawaii therefore respectfully recommends passage of House Bill 657.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.