

SB 152

SB152

RELATING TO HIGHWAY SAFETY.

Requires helmet use for bicycles, mopeds, and motorcycles.

Testimony from Dr. Caesar M Ursic, MD, Trauma Surgeon and Director of Trauma Services at the Queen's Medical Center, Honolulu

Testimonial:

As a trauma surgeon who has practiced medicine for over 15 years, and as the Medical Director of Trauma Services at The Queen's Medical Center, I am writing in strong support of SB828.152.

- Medical research convincingly demonstrates that helmets, when worn by individuals involved in a motorcycle, moped or bicycle crash, save lives and reduce the severity of brain injury. A 2008 Cochrane Review entitled "Helmets for Preventing Injury in Motorcycle Riders" suggests what nearly all high-quality helmet research studies have found: Universal Helmet Laws save lives and should be implemented.
- In Hawaii, death rates for unhelmeted riders are 200% higher than that of helmeted riders.
- These injuries are costly to patients, patients' families, and also to society: From 2003-2008, taxpayers paid an average of \$1,900,000 *per year* for the direct hospital expenses of head-injured motorcyclists covered by Medicaid and Medicare. These figures do not account for rehabilitation or lost productivity. The Queen's Medical Center (QMC) also reported that in 2007, a full 23% of injured motorcyclists had no health insurance and paid absolutely nothing for their medical care, resulting in losses of \$2,203,816 in 2007, alone.
- Pediatric patients ages 1-14 years accounted for 45% of bicyclist injuries, and despite Hawaii's helmet laws for children, the majority of these pediatric patients were unhelmeted.

Conclusion: Hawaii remains one of 30 states with partial or no laws governing helmet usage, and has one of the highest rates of *preventable* death and catastrophic traumatic brain injuries. A Universal Helmet Law would save lives and Hawaii taxpayer dollars.



BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

1515 Nuuanu Avenue, # 40 * Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

Tel. (808) 521 -7721

STATE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
and INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
JANUARY 28, 2011, 1:15 pm
STATE CAPITOL, CONF. RM. 224

Testimony in support of
SB 152, Relating to Highway Safety

CHAIR J. KALANI ENGLISH, VICE CHAIR WILL ESPERO, AND MEMBERS OF THE
COMMITTEE:

The Brain Injury Association of Hawaii (BIA-HI) strongly supports SB 152 which requires a person under the age of eighteen to wear a helmet while operating or riding an all terrain vehicle.

My name is Lyna Burian, and my son sustained a brain injury eighteen years ago, and since then I have been involved with the BIA-HI, where I have met a number of people with brain injuries, who sustained their injuries from accidents involving two-wheeled vehicles and not wearing helmets.

Brain injury changes not only the life of the individual completely, but the lives of his/her family members as well. Depending on what part of the brain gets injured, the individual may suffer physical, cognitive or behavioral problems, and what is so sad about it is that very few rehabilitative services are available and affordable for the survivors after the initial acute care phase.

The best cure for brain injury is PREVENTION. According to statistics gathered by the National Brain Injury Association, a child is four times more likely to be seriously injured in a bicycle crash than to be kidnapped by a stranger. Wearing a helmet can make a lot of difference. Research studies have shown that the use of helmets reduces the risk of brain injuries by 88%.

Again, I urge you to pass this bill. It will help save lives. It will help reduce the number of brain injuries related to crashes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lyna O. Burian

Member, BIA-HI Legislative Committee

STATE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
and INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
JANUARY 28, 2011, 1:15 pm
STATE CAPITOL, CONF. RM. 224

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
SB 152, RELATING TO HIGHWAY SAFETY

CHAIR J. KALANI ENGLISH, VICE CHAIR WILL ESPERO, AND MEMBERS OF THE
COMMITTEE:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 152, which requires a person under the age of eighteen to wear a helmet while operating or riding an all terrain vehicle.

My name is Albert Burian. I received a brain injury more than eighteen years ago on Dec. 11, 1992, when I was struck by a tow truck while I was crossing Wilder Avenue. I have met a number of people with brain injuries from traffic accidents involving two-wheeled vehicles since then. They were not wearing helmets at the time of their accidents.

Brain injury changes the life of the individual completely. Depending on what part of the brain gets injured, the individual may suffer physical, cognitive or behavioral problems, and what is so sad about it is that very few rehabilitative services are available and affordable in Hawaii for the survivors after the initial acute care phase.

The best cure for brain injury is PREVENTION. According to statistics gathered by the Brain Injury Association of America, 1.4 million people sustain a brain injury in the United States each year. Direct medical costs and indirect costs, such as lost productivity from TBI, totaled an estimated \$60 billion in the U.S. in 2008. Wearing a helmet can make a big difference. A recent study showed that the use of helmets reduces the risk of brain injuries by 88%.

I urge you to pass SB 152. It will help save lives. It will help reduce the number of brain injuries related to crashes.

Sincerely,

AB

Albert V. Burian
1515 Nuuanu Avenue, #40
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

From: Frank Schultz [mailto:schlitzsky@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 27, 2011 10:00 PM
To: TRNtestimony
Subject: SB 828 and SB 152

To whom it may concern,

Let it be known that I OPPOSE SB 828 and am **IN FAVOR** of SB 152.

Frank Schultz
Hawaii resident and a Motorcycle rider

Notice of Hearing

Friday, January 28, 2010 at 1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 224 — State Capitol,
415 S. Beretania Street

SB 828

RELATING TO HELMET USE.

Requires **helmet** use for bicycles, mopeds, and motorcycles.

SB 152

RELATING TO HIGHWAY SAFETY.

Requires a person **under the age of eighteen** to wear a **helmet** while operating or riding an all-terrain vehicle.

Frank

IN GOD WE TRUST

"The trouble with socialism is that eventually you run out of other people's money."

- Margaret Thatcher

Subject: SB 828 and SB152

Good Afternoon,

I have been a motorcycle rider since 1999. I enjoy riding on Saturdays with the Harley Group and it helps me with my stress, tension throughout the week. I prefer to ride without a helmet but there are many of us that wear helmets as well as put helmets on our children.

I have seen a lot of riders in Hawaii and aside from a few that will always be reckless, the majority of us are responsible, law abiding, voting citizens that enjoy a small piece of freedom.

Please consider my comment when deciding on such a major issue that will impact us. Visitors that come and ride with us, appreciate the freedom to enjoy the wonderful weather we have and the slower pace and beautiful views. Please help us keep it that way.

Statistics has shown that helmet wearing does not prevent accidents or prevent major injury. Motorcycle awareness and education are the major preventors. The May motorcycle awareness month and the free motorcycle safety classes for that month are gaining popularity and awareness by the community. Please publicize this more, I am. I feel that this will help in reduction of accidents and bring awareness to the community.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Karen Kikukawa
562 Kipuka Place
Kailua, HI 96734