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TO: Senator David Y. Ige
Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Via Email: WAMTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

FROM: Christine O. Karamatsu

DATE: February 22, 2012

RE: **S.B. No. 2447 – Relating to Highway Safety**
Hearing Date: Thursday, February 23, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. Room 211

Dear Chairs Ige and Members of the Committee:

I am Christine Karamatsu, submitting comments on behalf of EAN Holdings, LLC, which operates Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Alamo Rent-A-Car and National Car Rental in Hawaii (collectively referred to as “Enterprise”).

Enterprise **supports** S.B. 2447, which extends the period in which an owner of a new car is exempted from obtaining a certificate of inspection from two years to three years from the date of purchase.

Cars in Enterprise’s Hawai‘i fleet are generally used for only 16-18 months and average less than 36,000 miles before they are replaced. This ensures that only the newest and safest cars are made available to our customers. For those cars in our fleet older than two years, extending the certificate of inspection renewal period would reduce the administrative and financial burden of inspecting these vehicles.

We believe this measure achieves a good balance of streamlining government without compromising the safety of all drivers on Hawaii’s roads.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on this matter.

DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICES
CITY & COUNTY OF HONOLULU
DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLE, LICENSING AND PERMITS
ADMINISTRATION
P.O. BOX 30300
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96820-0300

PETER B. CARLISLE
MAYOR



GAIL Y. HARAGUCHI
DIRECTOR

DENNIS A. KAMIMURA
LICENSING ADMINISTRATOR

February 21, 2012

The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
and Committee Members
Committee on Ways and Means
The Senate
State of Hawaii
State Capitol, Room 215
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Ige and Committee Members:

Subject: S.B. No. 2447, Relating to Highway Safety

The City and County of Honolulu has concerns with S.B. No. 2447 which will increase the period of safety inspection for new vehicles from two to three years.

Although we concur that new vehicles are unlikely to experience major mechanical defects during the first three years after purchase, defects such as head lamps, stop lamps, signal lamps, expired registration, and expired vehicle liability insurance card have been discovered under the current 2-year program. It is very likely that such defects would not be discovered if new vehicles were allowed a 3-year safety inspection period.

The City and County of Honolulu recommends that S.B. No. 2447 be held.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis A. Kamimura". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dennis A. Kamimura
Licensing Administrator



February 10, 2012

Re: Oppose SB2447

Aloha Honorable Chairman David Y. Ige, Vice Chair Michelle N. Kidani and WAM committee members,

I am opposed to SB2447.

Extending the new car certificate of inspection for the periodic motor vehicle inspection from two years to three should not be allowed.

I have been a certified State of Hawaii Periodic Motor Vehicle Inspector and a State of Hawaii Licensed Mechanic since 1974.

The assumption that a new vehicle will not have any safety defects is not a good one.

Regardless of age, vehicles may have defects, some obvious, some not. In general, vehicles will wear at different rates depending on driver habits, road conditions, and distances traveled. However, not knowing which vehicles have defects, all vehicles should be inspected on a yearly basis using the same set of rules and regulations to ensure safety for the general public. Age should not be the premise to allow for discrimination and an exemption.

Having a three year thirty six thousand mile new car warranty has nothing to do with the safety of a vehicle. Some car manufacturers claim a 10 year or 100,000 mile warranty. Does this mean the vehicle will not have any safety issues and that the new car dealer will be responsible for the safety of the vehicle for 10 years or 100,000 miles?

Most warranties do not cover some crucial safety items such as brakes and tires. Will the new car dealer accept responsibility for safety, illegal modifications, insurance and registration during this period? Taking the vehicle to a new car dealer or any repair facility

for an oil change or tire rotation doesn't necessarily mean it will be thoroughly and properly inspected by a certified safety inspector according to state rules and regulations.

How often will the new car dealers and rental companies inspect new vehicles for safety? What if the owner doesn't visit the new car dealer at all? This bill will allow the first inspection when new and the next one in three years and possibly 50,000 miles later.

Most owners are diligent and will care for their vehicle as best they can but may not know how to properly inspect a vehicle and/or be aware of any deficiencies until it is brought to their attention by the safety inspection process.

The \$14.70 fee and the time it takes to complete the safety inspection is a small price to pay to ensure safety. If it can save one life, it will be worth it.

Please do not allow this bill to move forward for the sake of myself, my family and everyone else.

Thank you.

Paul Hanada
Owner