

# SB 2968

RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLE INSURANCE.

Allows motor vehicle insurers to offer insurance premium discounts for completion of a state-approved driver safety course.



NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR

BRIAN SCHATZ  
LT. GOVERNOR

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TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND  
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2012

Monday, January 30, 2012  
1:15 p.m.

TESTIMONY ON **SENATE BILL NO. 2968** – RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLE  
INSURANCE.

TO THE HONORABLE J. KALANI ENGLISH, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE  
COMMITTEE:

My name is Gordon Ito, State Insurance Commissioner (“Commissioner”),  
testifying on behalf of the **Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs**  
 (“Department”). The Department supports the intent of the bill, but takes **no position.**

The purpose of this bill is to allow motor vehicle insurance companies to offer  
discounts on premiums if the insured completes a state-certified driver improvement  
course. The bill also requires the Hawaii Insurance Commissioner to establish and  
maintain a list of state-approved driver safety courses.

Hawaii Revised Statutes § 431:10C-207 does not prohibit the offering of  
discounts to a policyholder who completes a driver improvement course. Hawaii motor  
vehicle insurance companies are already able to provide premium discounts to  
policyholders under existing law and are already offering discounts to policyholders who  
complete defensive driving classes.

The Department of Transportation ("DOT") already maintains a list of certified driver education instructors. Accordingly, if a program to monitor or regulate driver safety courses is established, we believe it would be more appropriate for DOT to take the lead for such a program.

We thank this Committee for the opportunity to present testimony on this matter.



January 30, 2012

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
TRANSPORTATION & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS  
ON SB 2968 RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLE INSURANCE**

Thank you Chair English and committee members. I am Gareth Sakakida, Managing Director of the Hawaii Transportation Association (HTA) with over 400 transportation related members throughout the state of Hawaii.

Hawaii Transportation Association can support this language as it is permissive versus a mandate, and requests one amendment.

In paragraph (b) we would like the language to read, "(b) An insurer may offer premium discounts for drivers who complete a state-approved driver safety course, including one in compliance with chapter 286-202.5."

Thank you.

TO: Members of the Committee on Transportation and International Affairs

FROM: **Natalie Iwasa**  
aka Bike Mom  
Honolulu, HI 96825  
808-395-3233

REGULAR  
MEETING: 1:15 p.m. Monday, January 30, 2012

SUBJECT: Motor Vehicle Insurance - Discounts for Driver Safety Courses

Aloha Chair and Senators,

Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony on **SB 2968**, which would allow insurance companies to offer discounts to motorists who take certain driver safety courses.

Hawaii is fortunate to have certified bicycle education instructors (League Cycling Instructors certified by the League of American Bicyclists\*) in every county. Please consider including bicycle education in the approved safety courses mentioned in SB 2968.

\* A list of instructors can be found on the League's website at [https://members.bikeleague.org/members\\_online/members/findit.asp](https://members.bikeleague.org/members_online/members/findit.asp).