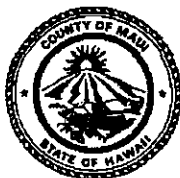


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TESTIMONY

ON

SB 2971 - RELATING TO VEHICLES

March 14, 2012

The Honorable Joseph M. Souki
Chair
The Honorable Linda Ichiyama
Vice Chair
and Members
House Committee on Transportation

Chair Souki, Vice Chair Ichiyama and Members of the Committee:

SB 2971, Relating to Vehicles, proposes to create a definition of "vehicle" in Hawaii Revised Statutes ("HRS") Chapter 707 that is identical to HRS Chapter 291E, and change "motor vehicle" in the negligent injury statutes to "vehicle." This will make clear that the operation of mopeds and vessels are included in the negligent homicide statutes, and allow negligent injury statutes to include the operation of mopeds and vessels.

The Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Maui, SUPPORTS the passage of this bill. Within the past year, we had two fatalities in Maui County waters involving boats versus swimmers/divers incidents. Also during this time, we had one boat versus swimmer incident resulting in the partial amputation of an arm. This is in addition to numerous reported "near miss" incidents. Also, we are aware of fatalities in moped collisions on Oahu. This bill will make clear that the operation of vessels and mopeds are included in the negligent homicide statutes. It will also add the operation of vessels and mopeds to the negligent injury statutes. We believe that this will result in increased operator awareness and safety on our streets and waters. We ask that the committee PASS SB 2971.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.