

TESTIMONY OF THE HAWAII POLICE DEPARTMENT

HOUSE BILL 146, HD1

RELATING TO THE TRAFFIC CODE

BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

DATE : Friday, February 22, 2013

TIME : 2:00 P.M.

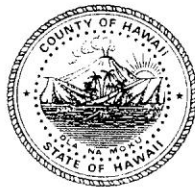
**PLACE : Conference Room 325
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street**

PERSON TESTIFYING:

**Police Chief Harry S. Kubojiri
Hawaii Police Department
County of Hawaii**

(Written Testimony Only)

William P. Kenoi
Mayor



Harry S. Kubojiri
Police Chief

Paul K. Ferreira
Deputy Police Chief

County of Hawai'i

POLICE DEPARTMENT

349 Kapiolani Street • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720-3998
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February 20, 2013

Representative Karl Rhoads
Chairperson and Committee Members
Committee On Judiciary
415 South Beretania Street, Room 325
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813

Re: House Bill 146, HD1 Relating to the Traffic Code

Dear Representative Rhoads:

The Hawai`i Police Department supports House Bill 146, HD1 with its purpose being to define and prohibit the use of dangerous wheels. The passage of this Bill will prohibit the use of wheels and attendant hardware that have been deemed dangerous.

It is our belief that certain wheels and hardware associated with these wheels are of a danger to the unsuspecting community. The restricting of these types of implements will not affect the safe operation of a vehicle but will, instead, ensure that the safety of the unwary public is not placed in jeopardy.

For these reasons, we urge this committee to approve this legislation.

Thank you for allowing the Hawai`i Police Department to provide comments relating to House Bill 146, HD1.

Sincerely,


HARRY S. KUBOJIRI
POLICE CHIEF



ALAN M. ARAKAWA
MAYOR

OUR REFERENCE
YOUR REFERENCE

POLICE DEPARTMENT

COUNTY OF MAUI

55 MAHALANI STREET
WAILUKU, HAWAII 96793
(808) 244-6400
FAX (808) 244-6411



GARY A. YABUTA
CHIEF OF POLICE

CLAYTON N.Y.W. TOM
DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE

February 22, 2013

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
And Members of the Committee on Judiciary
House of Representatives
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: HB 146, HD1, RELATING TO THE TRAFFIC CODE

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

The Maui Police Department supports the passage of HB 146, HD1.

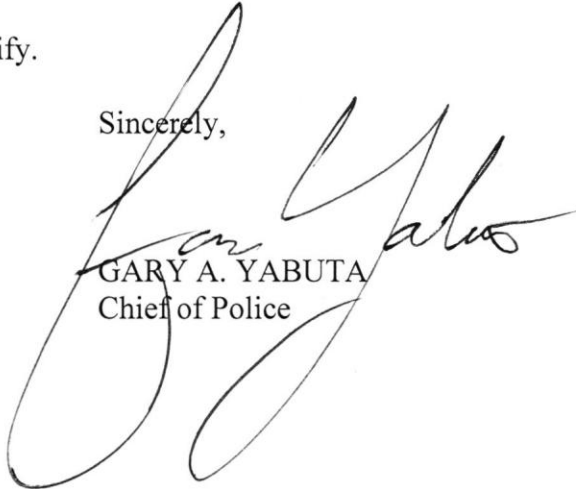
The passage of this bill will define and prohibit the use of dangerous wheels, effective July 1, 2020.

“Dangerous wheels” are a potential danger to pedestrians, bicyclists, and other motor vehicles due to its design to protrude beyond the wheel wells of a motor vehicle, potentially causing damage and injury like a moving meat grinder. By prohibiting the mounting of “dangerous wheels” on motor vehicles, this bill will assist in preventing injuries and deaths on our roadways

The Maui Police Department asks that you support the passage of HB 146, HD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,


GARY A. YABUTA
Chief of Police



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

February 22, 2013
2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 325

H.B. 146, H.D.1
RELATING TO THE TRAFFIC CODE

House Committee on Judiciary

The Department of Transportation **supports** this bill, which will prohibit the installation of any spinner on a wheel that extends four inches or more. However, we prefer the wording of SB 337, HD1, which provides a two-inch threshold, a reference point for taking a measurement and a penalty for a violation.

In the event of pedestrian sideswipe or similar incident, an extended spinner has potential for causing added injury unnecessarily. From a safety perspective, these spinners or spikes are similar to old style hood ornaments that did not collapse or fold back when impacted.

Spinners that extend beyond the fender also have potential for injuring someone walking past a vehicle in a crowded parking lot. People walking between cars in this situation often do not pay much attention to things below the hood level of a vehicle, because they are watching for traffic and looking for their car. It is not uncommon for pedestrians in parking lots to be close enough to a vehicle to brush against it. In this situation spikes could cause a person to get a leg injury by brushing against an unseen spinner.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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KIRK W. CALDWELL
MAYOR



LOUIS M. KEALOHA
CHIEF

DAVE M. KAJIHIRO
MARIE A. McCAULEY
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE PC-LKA

February 22, 2013

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
and Members
Committee on Judiciary
State House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:

Subject: House Bill No.146, H.D. 1, Relating to the Traffic Code

I am Paul Dwayne Calvey, Captain of the Information Technology Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD strongly supports the intent of House Bill No.146, H.D. 1, Relating to the Traffic Code. This bill would prohibit drivers from operating vehicles with wheels that have been deemed dangerous. It would also protect the public from undue injury that could be caused by contact with these wheels.

We recommend that page 2, lines 9, 10, and 11 of the bill, be amended to read "extends out two inches or more past the wheel's rim and/or has a point or points or sharp ends or parts."

The HPD urges you to support House Bill No. 146, H.D. 1, with the recommended changes.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,


PAUL DWAYNE CALVEY, Captain
Information Technology Division

APPROVED:


LOUIS M. KEALOHA
Chief of Police



February 22, 2013

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
ON HB 146 HD1 RELATING TO THE TRAFFIC CODE**

Thank you Chair Rhoads 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.

We support the intent of this measure, but feel the following amendment to the definition of "dangerous wheels" is representative of the intent.

"Dangerous wheels" means any **ornamentation that extends at least four inches from any** wheel, wheel cover, hubcap, lug nut cover or cap, **or** prong, {or any ornamentation affixed to any of the aforementioned items that extends at least four inches } and that may cause injury or property damage by minimal contact with a person or object."

Thank you.