



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

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

**S.B. 4, H.D. 1
RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES**

House Committee on Judiciary

The Department of Transportation (DOT) recognizes the need for all motor vehicle occupants to be restrained by a seat belt or child passenger restraint while riding in a motor vehicle being operated on any public roadway.

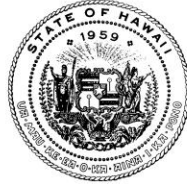
As such, the DOT **supports** this bill because it would increase the safety of all motor vehicle occupants by as much as 45 percent, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

NHTSA also states that seat belts are the most effective safety feature ever invented and have saved the lives of thousands of motor vehicle occupants.

In 2011, there were 40 motor vehicle occupant fatalities in Hawaii. Of the 40 motor vehicle occupant fatalities, 14 or 35 percent, were not restrained. If those 14 occupants had been wearing seat belts, at least 6 of them might have survived the crash.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.





STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

House Committee on Judiciary

S.B. 4 HD-1, RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES

Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
Director of Health

April 2, 2013, 2:00pm

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health strongly supports SB4 HD-1, which requires all
2 motor vehicle occupants in all seating positions to be restrained in a seat belt assembly, since it is the
3 most effective form of restraint policy for protecting occupants of motor vehicles.

4 **Fiscal Implications:** None

5 **Purpose and Justification:** In Hawai'i, unrestrained motor vehicle occupants are at greater risk for
6 fatal or serious injuries in the event of a crash than persons restrained by a seat belt assembly. Recent
7 crash data from 2007-2010 shows that more than half of the victims in a fatal crash were not wearing
8 seat belts: 52%, or 100 of the 193 victims. Of the fatally injured victims who were back seat passengers,
9 75% were not wearing a seat belt at the time of the crash (9 out of the 12). Results from analyzing
10 restraint use using 2007 EMS data linked to multiple data systems (FARS, death certificates, DOT
11 reports and hospital records) revealed the following: back seat passengers were less likely to be
12 restrained than front seat passengers (78% vs. 90%, respectively), restraint use among back seat
13 passengers who were under 18 years of age was higher than older passengers (87% vs. 68%), the
14 proportion of hospitalization was nearly twice as high among unrestrained vs. restrained occupants (13%
15 vs. 7%), mortality rates were 3 times higher for unrestrained vs. restrained occupants, and lastly, medical

1 charges are 36% higher among unrestrained occupants in comparison to restrained occupants discharged
2 from the Emergency Department.

3 Hawaii's current law does not require adult passengers to wear seat belts in the back seat. SB4
4 HD-1 would increase the practice of using seat belts by back seat passengers of all ages and make
5 enforcement easier, thereby reducing the risk of injury and death in the event of a motor vehicle crash.
6 According to NHTSA's 2007 National Motor Vehicle Occupant Safety Survey, passengers in the back
7 seat were more likely to wear a seat belt in the states with restraint laws that covered all seating
8 positions.

9 A universal seat belt law that covers all motor vehicle occupants in all seating positions is the
10 most effective form of restraint policy (NHTSA, 2011). SB4 HD-1 is also a policy priority of the
11 Hawai'i Injury Prevention Plan, 2012-2017, the Hawai'i Strategic Highway Safety Plan, and the State
12 Highway Safety Council. We commend the Legislature for hearing this bill, which has the potential to
13 reduce the burden of injuries and fatalities on our roadways.

14 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET · HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 529-3111 · INTERNET: www.honolulu.org



KIRK W. CALDWELL
MAYOR

LOUIS M. KEALOHA
CHIEF

DAVE M. KAJIHIRO
MARIE A. McCAULEY
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE KK-CS

April 2, 2013

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

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:

Subject: Senate Bill No. 4, H.D. 1, Relating to Motor Vehicles

I am Kurt Kendro, Major of the Traffic Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD strongly supports the passage of Senate Bill No. 4, H.D. 1, Relating to Motor Vehicles. Passage of this bill would require that all front and back seat passengers be restrained by a seat belt assembly or a child passenger restraint when the motor vehicle is operated on any public highway.

Seat belts save lives and reduce the number of injuries and the costs associated with crashes and collisions. Every person in a motor vehicle should be required to wear a seat belt or a child passenger restraint whenever the vehicle is being operated.

The HPD strongly urges you to support Senate Bill No. 4, H.D. 1, Relating to Motor Vehicles.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kurt Kendro", is written over the typed name.

KURT KENDRO, Major
Traffic Division

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Louis M. Kealoa", is written over the typed name.

LOUIS M. KEALOHA
Chief of Police



S.B. 4, H.D. 1 RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES
House Committee on Judiciary
April 2, 2013, 2:00 p.m.
Room 325

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support** of S.B. 4, Relating to Motor Vehicles. My name is Cindy Kamikawa, Vice President, Nursing, Trauma, ED and Chief Nursing Officer with The Queen's Medical Center (QMC).

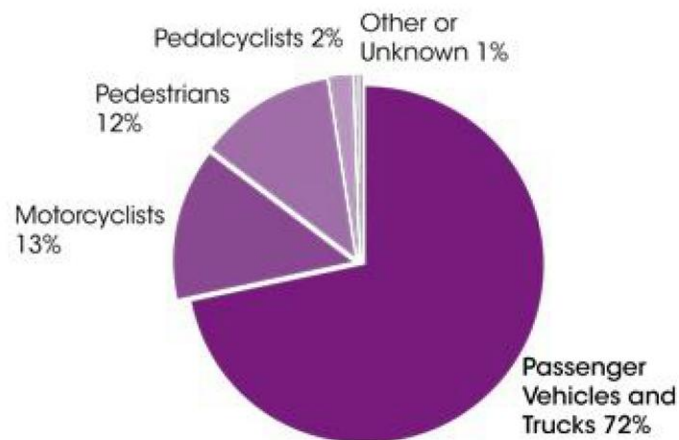
Wearing a seat belt is the most effective way to prevent death and serious injury in a crash. Data provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention demonstrate that laws, education, and technology have effectively increased seat belt use from 11% in 1981 to nearly 85% in 2010, saving hundreds of thousands of lives. Yet, about 1 in 7 people still don't buckle up.

- Seat belts dramatically reduce risk of death and serious injury. Among drivers and front-seat passengers, seat belts reduce the risk of death by 45%, and cut the risk of serious injury by 50%.
- Seat belts prevent drivers and passengers from being ejected during a crash. People not wearing a seat belt are 30 times more likely to be ejected from a vehicle during a crash. More than 3 out of 4 people who are ejected during a crash die from their injuries.
- Seat belts save thousands of lives each year, and increasing use would save thousands more. Seat belts saved almost 13,000 lives in 2009. If all drivers and passengers had worn seat belts that year, almost 4,000 more people would be alive today. Locally, according to the Hawaii State Department of Transportation, there were 40 motor vehicle occupant fatalities in Hawaii, 14 of which were unrestrained. Had they been using a seatbelt, 6 of these individuals may have survived.

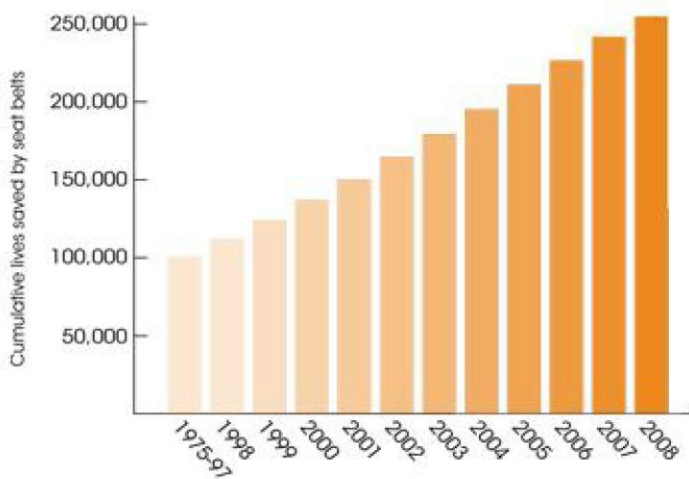
As a policy priority of the Hawaii Injury Prevention Plan, 2012-2017, the Hawaii Strategic Highway Safety Plan, and the State Highway Safety Council, we strongly urge the committee to support this measure.

These CDC facts show that increasing seat belt use is critical to reduce injury and saving lives.

Most People Killed in Crashes are Drivers or Passengers



Seat Belts Have Saved an Estimated 255,000 Lives Since 1975



April 2, 2013, 2:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair

Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair

Dear Chair Rhoads and Vice Chair Har, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

Subject: **Support for SB4 HD-1**

The State Highway Safety Council supports SB4 HD-1, which would require all occupants, regardless of age to wear a seat belt. Tragically, 75% fatally injured victims who were back seat passengers were not wearing a seat belt at the time of the crash (9 out of the 12). Enforcement and compliance is easier for states that have a seat belt law that covers all ages and seating positions.

The State Highway Safety Council (SHSC) advises the DOT on matters relating to the programs and activities of the State in the field of highway safety. SHSC members include representatives from public, private, and all four counties.

Thank you for allowing us to testify.

Sincerely,

Kari Benes

Co-Chair State Highway Safety Council



Tuesday, April 2, 2013

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

Dear Chairman Rhoads and Members of the House Committee on Transportation,

Subject: Support for SB4 HD-1

The Injury Prevention Advisory Committee strongly supports SB4 HD-1. This bill requires all motor vehicle occupants, regardless of age or seating position, to wear a seat belt. Hawaii's current law does not require adult passengers to wear a seat belt if they are seated in the back seat of a motor vehicle. Sadly, 75% fatally injured victims who were back seat passengers were not wearing a seat belt at the time of the crash (9 out of the 12). According to EMS data from 2007-2011, back seat passengers were less likely to be restrained than front seat passengers (78% vs. 90%, respectively), and more likely to be transported with serious or critical injuries (45% vs. 26%, respectively).

Established in 1990, the Injury Prevention Advisory Committee (IPAC) is an advocacy group committed to preventing and reducing injuries in Hawai'i. IPAC members include representatives from public and private agencies, physicians and professionals working together to address the eight leading areas of injury, including traffic safety.

Please support this bill, as it will have impact on saving lives and preventing disability.

Thank you for allowing us to testify.

Sincerely,

Bruce McEwan
Chair
Injury Prevention Advisory Committee

**THE HONORABLE KARL RHOADS, CHAIR
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

Twenty-Seventh State Legislature
Regular Session of 2013
State of Hawai'i

April 2, 2013
2:00 p.m.
State Capital, Room 325

**S.B. 4
RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES**

Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair Sharon E. Har, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, AAA Hawai'i respectfully submits the following testimony in support of S.B. 4, the intent of which is to improve overall traffic safety by requiring motor vehicle occupants in all seating positions to be restrained by a seat belt or child passenger restraint while riding in a motor vehicle.

AAA Hawai'i was founded in 1915 in Honolulu and is a leader in motorist services and a strong advocate for traffic safety. AAA Hawai'i has more than 135,000 members. Service to and the safety of our members, other motorists, and all road users is the founding and continuing purpose of AAA Hawai'i. Research shows that exposure to unbelted occupants in a vehicle increases the risk of injury or death to other occupants in the vehicle by as much as 40%.

It is clear that wearing a seat belt can reduce the chance of death or injury to drivers and passengers when involved in an accident. As a result, many states have enacted primary and secondary seat belt laws and these laws, including Hawaii's current version, are varied in applicability dependent upon age and whether the person is in the front or rear seat.

While seat belt laws vary from the state to state, the impact from having all vehicle occupants restrained by a seat belt is uniform. The number of seriously injured drivers is estimated to decrease by approximately 25% if rear occupants wear a seat belt. Similarly, the number of injured front seat passengers is estimated to decrease by 28% if rear seat occupants wear seat belts. Research shows the impact that wearing a seat belt can have on reducing injuries to not only rear seat passengers but to front seat occupants as well.

Providing service to more than 10 million members

1130 N. Nimitz Highway, Suite A170, Honolulu, HI 96817



Given the statistical evidence available, S.B. 4 is a vital modification to Hawai'i's existing seat belt law, and will help to reduce deaths and injuries related to traffic crashes. AAA Hawai'i strongly supports and agrees with the objectives of S.B. 4.

By mandating seat belts for all occupants of a motor vehicle, regardless of age, AAA Hawai'i believes this legislation will help to reduce the number of deaths and injuries related to traffic collisions that result when occupants are unbelted.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of S.B. 4.

Very truly yours,

Liane Sumida

Liane Sumida
Regional Manager

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
JUDICIARY**

April 2, 2013

Senate Bill 4, HD1 Relating to Motor Vehicles

Chair Rhoads and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, I am Rick Tsujimura, representing State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company (State Farm).

State Farm supports the intent of Senate Bill 4, HD1 Relating to Motor Vehicles. Senate Bill 4, HD1 requires all front and back seat passengers to be restrained by a seat belt assembly or child passenger restraint while the motor vehicle is being operated upon any public highway.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.



Mothers Against Drunk Driving HAWAII
745 Fort Street, Suite 303
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone (808) 532-6232
Fax (808) 532-6004

April 2, 2013

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair –House Committee on Judiciary;
Representative Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair; and members of the committee

From: Carol McNamee/Arkie Koehl — Co-chairmen, Public Policy Committee -
MADD Hawaii

Re: Senate Bill 4 – Relating to Motor Vehicles

I am Arkie Koehl, testifying on behalf of the Hawaii organization of Mothers Against Drunk Driving in strong support of SB 4, relating to Motor Vehicles. This bill requires passengers in all seating positions in a vehicle to be restrained by a seat belt assembly or a child passenger restraint.

The use of seat belts has been a major factor in the reduction of highway fatalities over the past 30 years. MADD understands that being restrained by a seat belt assembly can make the difference in whether a person survives or suffers fatal injuries when involved in a highway crash. Wearing a seat belt is an individual's best defense against death or serious injury in a sudden, violent and destructive crash with a vehicle operated by an alcohol or other drug impaired driver.

Data provided by the Department of Health's Injury Prevention Division shows that a significant percent of back seat passengers are not using a seat belt assembly and therefore have a higher injury and fatality rate than passengers in the front seat of vehicles. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) records reveal that after a crash, back seat passengers are more likely than front seat passengers to be transported to a medical facility with serious or critical injuries (45% vs. 26%, respectively).

The mortality rate among unrestrained occupants (4.5%, or 116 deaths among 2585 occupants) was 7 times higher than the rate for restrained occupants (0.6%, or 97 of 15308). This information illustrates the benefits of having more passengers restrained by making sure back seat passengers will buckle up as often as front seat passengers. At least twenty-four states have laws requiring all passengers over a certain age to be restrained by a seat belt assembly.

To increase the safety of both Hawaii residents and visitors, the time has come to take the logical step of requiring all passengers in a vehicle to be restrained. MADD Hawaii urges the Judiciary Committee to pass SB4 to reduce loss of life and serious injury in our state's all too frequent highway crashes.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

SB4

Submitted on: 4/1/2013

Testimony for JUD on Apr 2, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Charles Hirata	Safe Community of Maui	Comments Only	No

Comments: Please pass this simple yet effective means of keeping people safe on our highways. Many mainland states have already done so.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair

April 2, 2013 at 2:00 p.m.

Conference Room 325

Supporting SB 4 HD 1: Relating to Motor Vehicles

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii advocates for its member organizations that span the entire spectrum of health care, including all acute care hospitals, a majority of home health agencies and hospices, as well as long term care facilities and other health care organizations. Our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing nearly 20,000 people statewide, delivering quality care to the people of Hawaii.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 4 HD 1, which requires all passengers in motor vehicles to be restrained by a seat belt or child passenger restraint while the motor vehicle is being operated on a public highway.

Seat belts function to reduce the risk of death or serious injury in a traffic collision by reducing the force of secondary impacts with interior strike hazards, by keeping occupants positioned correctly for maximum effectiveness of an airbag, and by preventing occupants from being ejected from the vehicle. Observational studies of car crash morbidity and mortality experiments using crash test dummies indicate that wearing seat belts greatly reduces the risk of death and injury in the majority of car crashes.

All states have laws requiring the use of seat belts, although some laws are limited in their applicability. The requirement for the use of seatbelts by passengers in the back seat is designed to reduce their risk of death and injury to those passengers. Furthermore, statistics show that unbelted rear passengers increase the risk of belted front seat occupants' death by nearly five times.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of SB 4 HD 1.

SB4

Submitted on: 4/1/2013

Testimony for JUD on Apr 2, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Curt S. Morimoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I have been an EMT / Paramedic for (37) yrs. SB4 will save lives. Restraints are already available in every seating position of vehicles, let's use them to minimize injury, save lives and all of the associated costs to all!! Please pass this bill!!

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

SB4

Submitted on: 4/1/2013

Testimony for JUD on Apr 2, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Kingdon, MPH, Paramedic	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

LATE

SB4

Submitted on: 4/1/2013

Testimony for JUD on Apr 2, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tito Villanueva	American Medical Response	Support	No

Comments: I support S.B. NO 4 requiring all front and back seat passengers to be restrained by a seat belt or child passenger restraint while the vehicle is being operated upon any public highway.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov