

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony of
GLENN M. OKIMOTO
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
JADE BUTAY
FORD N. FUCHIGAMI
RANDY GRUNE
JADINE URASAKI

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

February 20, 2013
10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 016

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

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

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** SB 4 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.



POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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

LATE TESTIMONY

KIRI W. CALDWELL
MAYOR



LOUIS M. KEALOHA
CHIEF

DAVE M. KEATHNER,
MARK A. HIGGINS,
JERRY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE KK-LC

February 20, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
and Members
Committee on Judiciary
and Labor
State Senate
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Hee and Members:

Subject: Senate Bill No. 4, 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, 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 House Bill No. 687, Relating to Electric Vehicles.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kurt Kendro".

KURT KENDRO, Major
Traffic Division

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Louis M. Kealoaha".
LOUIS M. KEALOHA
Chief of Police



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

LATE TESTIMONY

February 20, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
And Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor
The Senate
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: S.B. 4, RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee:

The Maui Police Department supports the passing of Senate Bill No. 4.

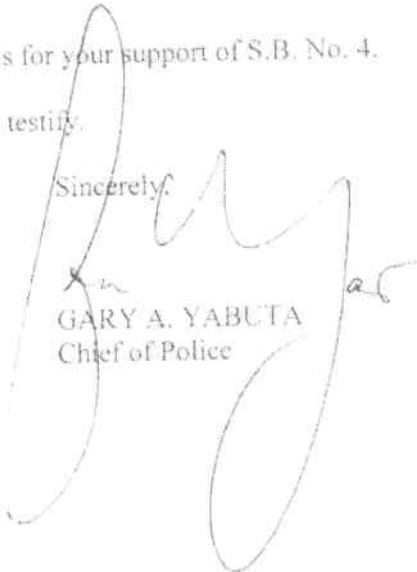
This bill requires all front and back seat passengers to be restrained by a seat belt assembly or child passenger restraint while the motor vehicle is being operated upon any public highway.

The Maui Police Department strongly supports this measure. It is a step in the right direction to encourage safety and the prevention of preventable deaths and injuries in traffic accidents as a result of back seat passengers not wearing their seat belts. Numerous studies have supported the positive results of seat belt usage by all passengers in a vehicle for decades, and our department is encouraged by this latest legislation to protect our traveling public for years to come.

The Maui Police Department asks for your support of S.B. No. 4.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,


GARY A. YABUTA
Chief of Police



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

1301 Punchbowl Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 • Phone (808) 691-5900

S.B. 4, RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
February 20, 2013, 10:00 a.m.
Room 016

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support** of S.B. 198, Relating to Advanced Practice Registered Nursing. My name is Cindy Kamikawa, Vice President, Nursing, Trauma, ED and Chief Nursing Officer with The Queen's Medical Center (QMC).

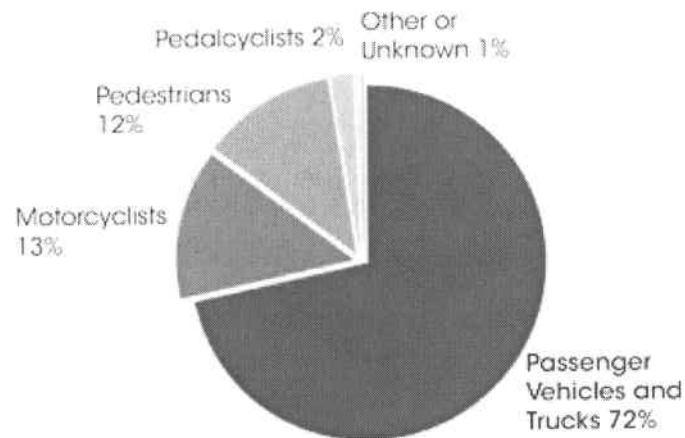
Wearing a seat belt is the most effective way to prevent death and serious injury in a crash. Data provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention demonstrate that laws, education, and technology have effectively increased seat belt use from 11% in 19812 to nearly 85% in 20103, saving hundreds 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.

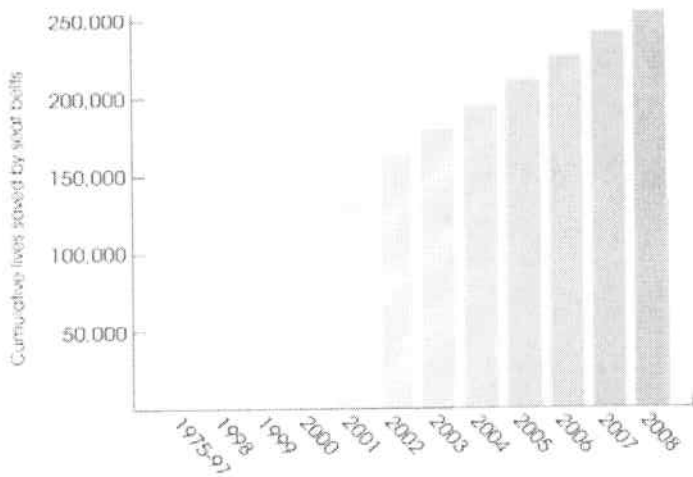
As a policy priority of the Hawaii Injury Prevention Plan, 2012-2017, the Hawaii Strategic Highway Safety Plan, and the State Highway Safety Council, we strongly urge the committee to support this measure.

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



Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

SB 4 Relating to Motor Vehicles

My name is Marie Weite and I am currently a Claims Adjuster at First Insurance Company. I am a former member of the Governor's Highway Safety Council and spent several years on the Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition. I am also a Child Passenger Safety Technician.

I strongly support the passage of SB4. For the last 25 years, I have handled automobile injury claims and have seen firsthand the effect of being properly restrained. I have handled numerous claims where the properly restrained occupant has survived and in the same vehicle, the unrestrained perished. I have also witnessed the unnecessary injuries sustained to occupants who have been ejected from the vehicle because they simply did not use their seatbelt. The economic toll these injuries and deaths have on our society is senseless. It is unfortunate, but people still look to the government to tell them what is common sense, that the proper use of seatbelts reduces injuries and fatalities.

Marie H Weite
2525 Date Street, #4006
Honolulu, Hawaii 96826

hee2 - Kathleen

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 19, 2013 11:30 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: towle@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB4 on Feb 20, 2013 10:00AM

LATE TESTIMONY

SB4

Submitted on: 2/19/2013
Testimony for JDL on Feb 20, 2013 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ginger Towle	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This is logical and necessary legislation, however, what about the people in the back of pickup trucks?

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.

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hee2 - Kathleen

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 19, 2013 6:06 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: Gailm808@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB4 on Feb 20, 2013 10:00AM*

LATE TESTIMONY

SB4

Submitted on: 2/19/2013
Testimony for JDL on Feb 20, 2013 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gail Miyahira	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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hee2 - Kathleen

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 19, 2013 3:16 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: ktessier@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB4 on Feb 20, 2013 10:00AM

SB4

Submitted on: 2/19/2013
Testimony for JDL on Feb 20, 2013 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karen Tessier	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This bill has the potential to save lives and prevent injuries by requiring that all passengers in a motor vehicle are restrained - all ages, all seating positions. Any unrestrained person or object in the vehicle is a potential projectile that in a crash can cause major damage. This bill will protect not only the newly restrained adult back seat passenger, but all others in the vehicle. It is not going to help a front seat passenger or driver to be restrained if they are hit from behind by an unrestrained back seat passenger flying toward them. It is well documented that seat belts and child restraints save lives. They are just as much a public health protective factor as immunizations are to prevent communicable disease. Unfortunately, many people will not buckle up unless they fear getting a citation. Please pass this bill and protect all occupants in a motor vehicle. Karen Tessier, PhD, RN

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