



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

LATE

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S.B. 4, RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES
House Committee on Transportation
March 13, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Room 309

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).

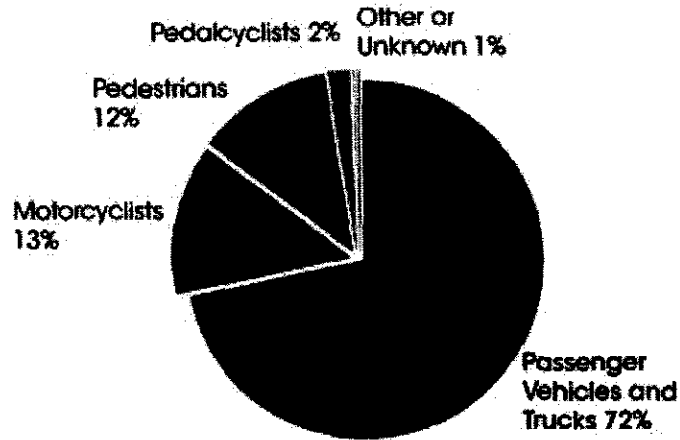
Wearing a seat belt is the most effective way to prevent death and serious injury in a crash. Data provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention demonstrate that laws, education, and technology have effectively increased seat belt use from 11% in 19812 to nearly 85% in 20103, saving hundreds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

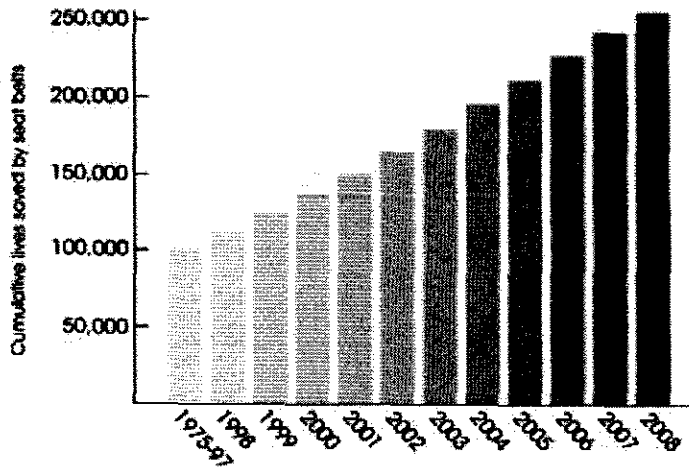
As a policy priority of the Hawaii Injury Prevention Plan, 2012-2017, the Hawaii Strategic Highway Safety Plan, and the State Highway Safety Council, we strongly urge the committee to support this measure.

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



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Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for TRN on Mar 13, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chad Taniguchi		Support	Yes

Comments:

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