



HAWAIIAN LIFEGUARD ASSOCIATION

April 1, 2013

The Honorable Brickwood Galuteria, Chair
Committee on Tourism and Hawaiian Affairs
and
The Honorable J. Kalani English, Chair
Committee on Transportation and International Affairs
The Senate
The Twenty Seventh Legislature
Regular Session of 2013

Dear Chairs Galuteria and English:

RE: SCR 143 / SR 103 Requesting the Hawaii Tourism Authority to Work with Airline Companies to Show Ocean Safety Video on Hawaii-Bound Flights

The Hawaiian Lifeguard Association is in strong support of this resolution and is hopeful that by working with the airlines, the Hawaii Tourism Authority can assist in making this idea a reality.

As you may know, according to the Hawaii State Department of Health, drowning has been the leading cause of fatal injury to visitors for the past 20 years, more than motor vehicle crashes, falls, and other injury categories.

Properly trained and properly equipped lifeguards are the front line of defense in any drowning prevention strategy. According to the United States Lifesaving Association, the chances of drowning at a beach in the country staff by USLA certified lifeguards are one (1) in 18 million. It should be noted that all ten of the recent drownings on Kauai occurred at unguarded areas.

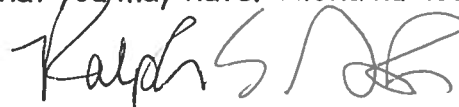
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We would strongly suggest that in addition to advocating for videos to be shown on the airlines, the legislature also study lifeguard staffing levels at all beaches in the State, and develop a plan to work with the counties to ensure adequate levels of beach protective coverage.

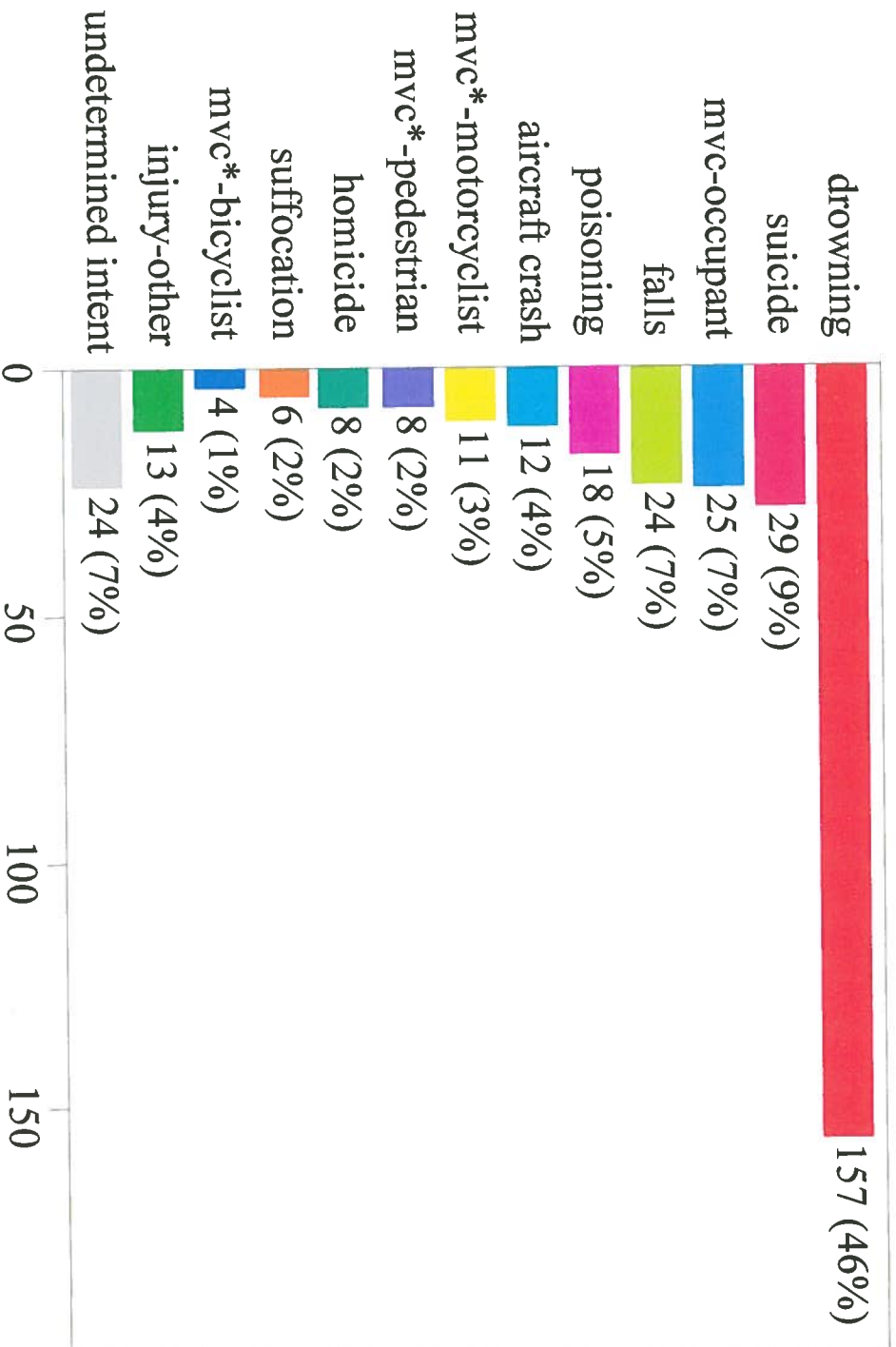
Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter. I am available to answer any questions that you may have. Aloha nui loa.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ralph S. Goto". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "R" and "G".

Ralph S. Goto

For the Board of Directors

Fatal injuries among non-residents in Hawaii, by mechanism/intent, 2007-2011



*mvc = motor vehicle crash