

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



Testimony of
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IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

February 3, 2013
10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 309

H.B. 2350
RELATING TO HIGHWAY SAFETY

House Committee on Transportation

The Department of Transportation **supports** this Administration bill, which clarifies existing law so that we meet federal requirements to qualify for federal highway safety funding under Chapter 23, United States Code, Section 154 of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21).

To qualify, states must enact and enforce a law that prohibits the possession of any open alcoholic beverage container, and the consumption of any alcoholic beverage in the passenger area of any motor vehicle located on a public highway, or the right-of-way of a public highway in the State.

Presently, there are only thirteen states and the District of Columbia that qualify for this grant. The allocation of federal funds totals over \$67 million that we are unable to qualify at this time.

By passing this bill, Hawaii would then be eligible to receive these federal funds that would be used for the enforcement of this law which will result in saving lives on our highways.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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February 3, 2014

To: Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair — House Committee on Transportation; Rep. Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair, and members of the Committee

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

Re: House Bill 2350 – Relating to Highway Safety

I am Arkie Koehl, offering testimony on behalf of the Hawaii members of Mothers Against Drunk Driving in support of House Bill 2350 which clarifies provisions in the statutes relating to the storage of an opened container of an alcoholic beverage in a motor vehicle or moped.

This clarification is needed both to provide improved information for the public and also to comply with regulations from NHTSA (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) in order for Hawaii to be eligible to receive Federal funds under Section 154's open container requirements.

Although the penalty for non-compliance with the Section 154 required language is transfer of 2.5% of certain highway funds to impaired driving countermeasures or enforcement programs – benefit to MADD's commitment to highway safety – we also understand the importance of having funds available for improving the state's Federal-aid highway system and thereby, its safety for drivers.

MADD encourages the committee to pass House Bill 2350.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.