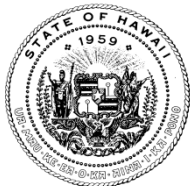


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



Testimony of
Ford N. Fuchigami
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
JADE T. BUTAY
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
DARREL T. YOUNG

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

March 2, 2015
2:15 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 325

H.B. 1011
RELATING TO THE TRAFFIC CODE

House Committee(s) on Consumer Protection & Commerce
and Judiciary

The Department of Transportation **supports the intent** of this bill which will prohibit the installation of any aftermarket part on a wheel that will extend 4 inches or more beyond the wheel rim. It is suggested that consideration be given to allowing the items to extend no further than the outer edge of the fender.

Although the items noted in the bill generally pose no threat to safety, in the event of pedestrian sideswipe or similar incident, an extended spinner, or similar item has the potential for causing added injury unnecessarily. From a safety perspective, these aftermarket items are similar to old style hood ornaments that did not collapse or fold back when impacted.

Spinners or spikes that extend beyond the tire also have potential for injuring someone walking past a vehicle in a crowded parking lot. People walking between cars in this situation often do not pay much attention to things below the hood level of a vehicle, because they are watching for traffic and looking for their car. It is not uncommon for pedestrians in parking lots to be close enough to a vehicle to brush against it. In this situation extended spikes could cause a person to get a leg injury by brushing against an unseen dangerous wheel.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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



KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR

LOUIS M. KEALOHA
CHIEF

DAVE M. KAJIHIRO
MARIE A. McCAULEY
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE CT-GR

March 2, 2015

The Honorable Angus L. K., McKelvey, Chair
and Members
Committee on Consumer Protection
and Commerce
The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
and Members
Committee on Judiciary
House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs McKelvey and Rhoads and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill No. 1011, Relating to the Traffic Code

I am Calvin Tong Major of the Traffic Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu. The HPD supports the passage of House Bill No. 1011, Relating to the Traffic Code.

Any aftermarket rim or wheel ornamentation that extends more than four inches beyond the rim of a vehicle has the potential to cause damage to other vehicles and harm to bicyclists and pedestrians.

The HPD urges you to support House Bill No. 1011, Relating to the Traffic Code.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Calvin Tong".

Calvin Tong, Major
Traffic Division

APPROVED:

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



March 2, 2015

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON
CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE, AND ON JUDICIARY
ON HB 1011 RELATING TO THE TRAFFIC CODE**

Thank you Chair McKelvey, Chair Rhoads and committee members. I am Gareth Sakakida, Managing Director of the Hawaii Transportation Association (HTA) with over 400 transportation related members throughout the state of Hawaii.

We oppose this bill as written, but are very close to a solution. Our aim is to ensure that commercial vehicles that come in from original equipment manufacturers are not suddenly rendered illegal by this proposal.

Ever since we can remember, trucks and buses have been designed with wheels, covers, caps, studs, lugnuts and their covers that protrude past the wheel rim by as much as five inches. Therefore we can support this bill with an amendment like the following:

“Dangerous wheels” means any wheel, wheel cover, hubcap, lug nut cover or cap, prong, or any ornamentation affixed to any of the aforementioned items that extends at least **five inches** beyond the outer edge of the wheel’s rim **for motor vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating of over 10,000 pounds, and extension of two inches for motor vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating of 10,000 pounds or less** and that may cause injury or property damage by minimal contact with a person or object.”

Five inches is reasonable for a commercial motor vehicle, but not so for a lighter weight cargo vans, utility trucks, or automobile. These lighter weight working vehicles do come with items that extend up to two inches beyond the wheel rim based on our observations.

We have never heard of injuries or property damage caused by any wheel part extending past the rim. If the vehicle is in motion no one should be anywhere near the vehicle. If stationary, it is still not easy to get that close to such a vehicle’s wheel and accidentally hurt oneself, but there are appurtenances on a commercial motor vehicle that you must be more wary of like fenders, mirrors and their brackets, step ups, and any protruding load.

There are aftermarket items that include lugnut covers and extensions. In reality lugnut covers can make the wheel safer by covering the bare lugnuts and studs. Extensions can appear ominous and some may be the cause of concern. However, they are made of plastic and pop on and off of the lugnuts.

Thank you.

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anthony Orozco	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: