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**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE**

**FEBRUARY 11, 2015  
2:30 P.M.  
ROOM 325**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 399  
RELATING TO MEASUREMENTS**

Chairperson McKelvey, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 360, relating to measurements. This bill proposes to require that when a sign representing all measurements of distance or speed is replaced, a state or county agency express the distance or speed in both United States customary system of weights and measures and the metric system of measurement in the same font size. The Department provides comments and defers to the Department of Transportation.

The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, or MUTCD defines the standards used by road managers nationwide to install and maintain traffic control devices on all public streets, highways, bikeways, and private roads open to public travel. The MUTCD is published by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) under 23 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 655, Subpart F. On December 16, 2009, a final rule adopting the 2009 Edition of the MUTCD was published in the Federal Register with an effective date of January 15, 2010, requires that states must adopt the 2009 National MUTCD as their legal State standard for traffic control devices within two years from the effective date.



Testimony of Scott E. Enright  
House Bill No. 399  
February 11, 2015

In addition, Public Law 104-59-NOV. 28, 1995 (National Highway System Act of 1995) relieved mandates that required States to expend Federal or State funds to construct, erect, otherwise place or modify any sign relating to speed limit, distance or other measurement on a highway to use the metric system.

Although the United States customary system of weights and measures and the metric system of measurement are jointly recognized, speed and distance signs are generally represented in the United States customary system units. In addition, many U.S. manufactured vehicles have odometers and speedometers that only measure in miles. (U.S. units of measure). Hawaii's highways have signage with a minimum and maximum speed in U.S. measurement. If metric measurements must also be shown in the font size, there will be four different units of speed measurements on the sign. Requiring signs to represent both systems of measurement in the same font size will cause public confusion.

We respectfully defer to the Department of Transportation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2015 2:48 PM  
To: CPCtestimony  
Cc: metroben@me.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB399 on Feb 11, 2015 14:30PM

**HB399**

Submitted on: 2/9/2015

Testimony for CPC on Feb 11, 2015 14:30PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ben Robinson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha! I am writing in strong support of this measure. This bill is a great step forward to both introduce the general population to the SI system as the standard of measurement in distance and speed in the international community alongside providing internationa I visitors with familiarity they can appreciate in a travel destination - essentially an acknowledgement to them. Additionally, as an IT consultant, I primary work in metric and travel both domestic and internationally and understand the importance of moving forward to remain competitive. This bill will help move Hawaii forward; vote to modernize our system of measurement to be in sync with the international community. Mahalo for your consideration!

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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DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



**LATE**

Testimony of  
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EDWIN H. SNIFFEN

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

February 11, 2015  
2:30 p.m.  
State Capitol, Room 325

**H.B. 399**  
**RELATING TO MEASUREMENTS**

House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

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The Department of Transportation (DOT) **opposes** H.B. 399 to require traffic signs displaying distances and speeds to be expressed in both the United States customary system and the metric system for the following reasons:

1. Displaying two distances or speed limits at the same time can be misinterpreted by roadway users. Misinterpretation of distances and/or speeds to decision points or changes in roadway condition (e.g., freeway off-ramps, crosswalks, curves, etc.) could lead to an increase in accidents caused by last minute lanes changes, unintentional speeding, and vehicles slowing down or stopping.
2. The DOT uses the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) for the design and installation of signs. The MUTCD is a nationally recognized standard developed by the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration and is adopted by the State of Hawaii for traffic control devices on public roads. The standardized sizes and shapes (i.e., speed limit and warning signs) in the MUTCD are not designed to fit two different types of measurements and installing two signs to display each measurement system is not practical.
3. The increase in size of the signs or number of signs may make it difficult or not possible to install due to limited space on our roadways. Also, existing overhead sign structures will not be able to accommodate larger guide signs because of new higher wind loading standards.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.