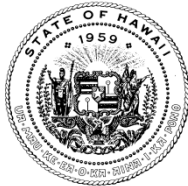


# SB 187

RELATING TO THE TRAFFIC CODE.

Prohibits the use of dangerous wheels on highways. Defines dangerous wheels as any part of a wheel or wheel ornamentation that extends past the wheel's rim and causes injury or property damage.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



Testimony of  
Ford N. Fuchigami  
DIRECTOR

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

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

Feb. 5, 2015  
2:45 p.m.  
State Capitol, Room 229

**S.B. 187**  
**RELATING TO THE TRAFFIC CODE**

Senate Committee on Transportation

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The Department of Transportation **supports** this bill, which will prohibit the installation of any aftermarket part on a wheel that will make it dangerous. 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 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 wheel 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  
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KIRK CALDWELL  
MAYOR



LOUIS M. KEALOHA  
CHIEF

DAVE M. KAJIHIRO  
MARIE A. McCAULEY  
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE CT-GR

February 5, 2015

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair  
and Members  
Committee on Transportation  
State Senate  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Nishihara and Members:

SUBJECT: Senate Bill No. 187, 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 Senate Bill No. 187, Relating to the Traffic Code.

Any sharp ornamentation that protrudes from the wheel of a vehicle is likely to cause damages to vehicles that are in motion or parked. They can also harm bicyclists and pedestrians. The passage of this bill would prohibit the use of such ornamentation and help to keep our roadways safe for all users.

The HPD urges you to support Senate Bill No. 187, Relating to the Traffic Code.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "C. Tong", written in a cursive style.

CALVIN TONG, Major  
Traffic Division

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "L. M. Kealoa", written in a cursive style.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
LOUIS M. KEALOHA  
Chief of Police



February 5, 2015

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY  
ON SB 187 RELATING TO THE TRAFFIC CODE**

Thank you Chair Nishihara 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, as it would render every truck and bus in the state, including *The Bus*, illegal.

Ever since we can remember, Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) have designed trucks and buses with wheels, covers, caps, studs, lugnuts and their covers that protrude past the wheel rim. These stock designs have been measured to as much as 5 inches from the wheel rim.

That 5 inches is a lot for an automobile or light truck, but not as much for a commercial motor vehicle. 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.

No one has ever 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.

There are aftermarket items that include lugnut covers and extensions. In reality lugnut covers can make the wheel safer by covering the bare 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.

The bottom line is we oppose making OEM equipment illegal since there is nothing we can do about them. Lugnut covers can be a good thing and should not be categorically made illegal. We require latitude for our equipment merely to operate as we have always done.

Chapter 291-34, Hawaii Revised Statutes allows a nine foot width, including load, which we should be held to.

Thank you.