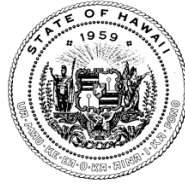


SB551

RELATING TO HELMETS.

Requires persons under the age of eighteen years to wear a properly fitted and fastened safety helmet while operating or riding as a passenger on a motorcycle or motor scooter. Requires a person under the age of eighteen years to wear a safety helmet while operating or riding as a passenger in an all-terrain vehicle, utility-terrain vehicle, or other off-road vehicle.



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

IN REPLY REFER TO:

February 12, 2015
2:45 PM
State Capitol, Room 229

S.B. 551
RELATING TO HELMETS

Senate Committee(s) on Transportation
and Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** S.B. 551 relating to helmets. This bill requires persons under the age of eighteen to wear a properly fitted and fastened safety helmet while operating or riding as a passenger on a motorcycle or motor scooter. It also requires a person under the age of eighteen years to wear a safety helmet while operating or riding as a passenger in an all-terrain vehicle, utility-terrain vehicle, or other off-road vehicle.

The Department of Health's Injuries in Hawaii 2007-2011 publication noted the following:

- "The odds of sustaining an injury that required hospitalization or resulted in death were 40% higher among unhelmeted riders compared to helmeted riders, and the former also had more than twice the odds of a fatal injury;" and
- "The odds of sustaining a traumatic brain injury were also more than double among unhelmeted riders compared to helmeted riders".

Although it is difficult to enforce any helmet use with all-terrain vehicles, utility-terrain vehicles and other off-road vehicles, helmet usage, especially for underage riders, is important in reducing the number of brain injuries and deaths.

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

February 12, 2015

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
and Members
Committee on Transportation
The Honorable Will Espero, Chair
and Members
Committee on Public Safety,
Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
State Senate
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs Nishihara and Espero and Members:

SUBJECT: Senate Bill No. 551, Relating to Helmets

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. 551, Relating to Helmets.

The use of a motorcycle helmet that meets federal safety standards can reduce the severity of head injuries or death in collisions. The passage of this bill would require those under 18 years of age to wear a helmet when operating or riding as a passenger on a motorcycle, motor scooter, or off-road vehicle, helping to enhance their safety.

The HPD urges you to support Senate Bill No. 551, Relating to Helmets.

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. Kealoa".
LOUIS M. KEALOHA
Chief of Police



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

SB 551, Relating to Helmets
Senate Committee on Transportation
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Hearing—February 12, 2015 at 2:45 PM

Dear Chairman Nishihara, Chairman Espero and Members of the Senate Committees on Transportation and Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs:

My name is Cindy Kamikawa and I am the Senior Vice President for Trauma and the Emergency Department at The Queen's Health Systems. I would like to provide my support for SB 551, which would expand helmet use by minors in Hawaii.

As the only Level 2 Trauma Center in the state, The Queen's Medical Center-Punchbowl (QMC-P) receives and treats a large portion of our state's patients with brain injuries. Many brain injuries can be prevented—or at least minimized—if an individual wears an approved helmet.

Less than 40 percent of the patients that we see at QMC-P who were involved in a motorcycle or moped crash were wearing a helmet. If higher rates of individuals wore helmets we would see some very positive outcomes. A number of rigorous studies have shown that states with high rates of helmet use have lower rates of head injury than states with low helmet use and that states that have repealed helmet laws experience a dramatic rise in loss of life from head injuries among motorcyclists.

I would ask for your strong support of SB 551, which will help to better protect minors against brain injuries and decrease fatalities.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.

The mission of The Queen's Health Systems is to fulfill the intent of Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV to provide in perpetuity quality health care services to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i.

STATE HIGHWAY SAFETY COUNCIL
Thursday, February 12, 2015
2:45 PM

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTAION
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senator Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair

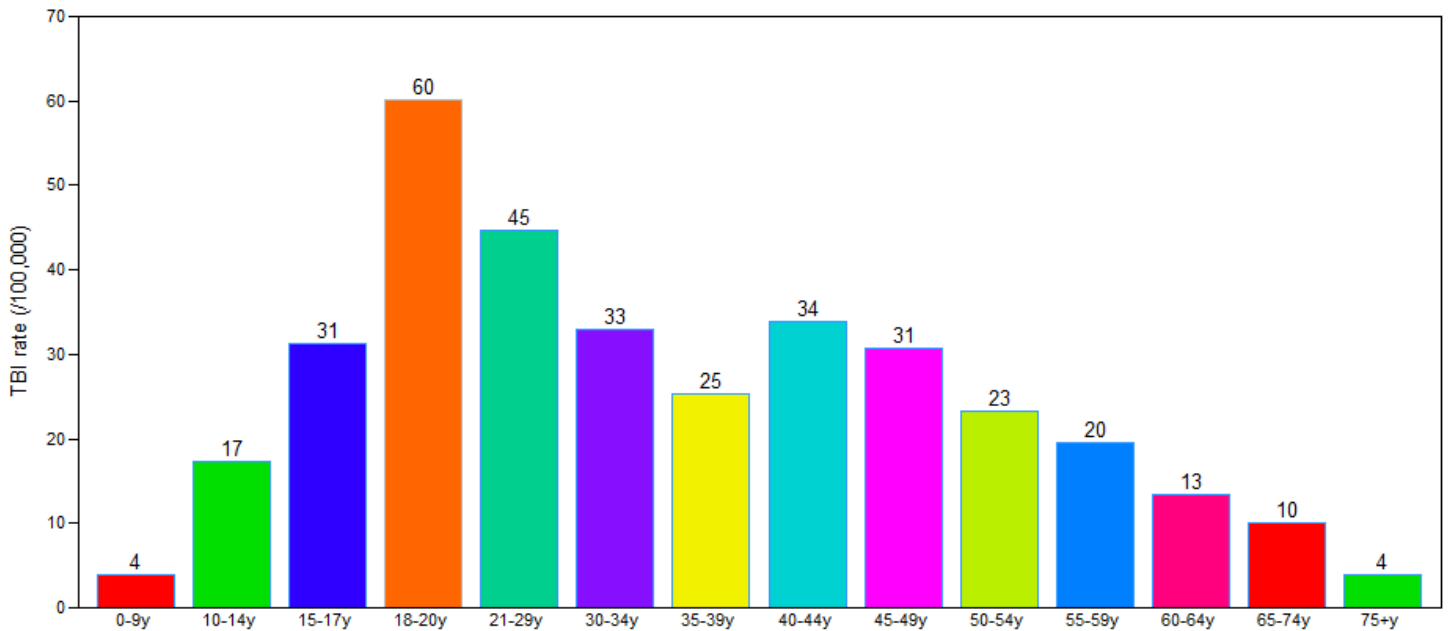
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY
AFFAIRS
Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

Dear Chairs, Vice Chairs, and members of both Committees,

Subject: **Supports SB 551**

The State Highway Safety Council supports SB 551, which extends current helmet requirements to cover individuals on ATVs and dirt bikes. However, in order to achieve a measurable impact in reducing roadway fatalities, and injuries among any type of rider the SHSC supports helmet requirement for all moped and motorcycle riders on operating public roads. The SHSC understands it is difficult to enforce helmet requirements on private roads.

Annual incidence of Traumatic Brain Injury among injured motorcycle and moped riders treated in Hawaii hospitals, by age group, 2009-2012



Proposed Law addresses ages 0 to 18



Proposed law does not protect ages 18 and above

Age group

From 2010 through 2013 there were 201 patients with injuries in Hawaii attended by Emergency Medical Service personnel under 18 years of age, who were injured in ATV, moped or motorcycle crashes. There was somewhat of an increasing trend in the annual number of injured moped riders. Helmet status was not known for nearly one-quarter (23%, or 46) of the riders. Helmet usage was 39% for the remaining 155 patients, but that was significantly higher among the motorcyclists (69%), compared to ATV (30%) or moped riders (15%). Among motorcyclists, helmet usage was much more common among those who crashed in off-road or non-traffic environments (83%) than among those who crashed on public roadways (31%).¹

There was no association between helmet usage and incidence of traumatic brain injury (TBI) among the 156 (out of the 201 studied patients) riders with linked hospital records. (TBI incidence was 38% for the total sample.) Stratification by vehicle type or crash environment did not indicate any association between helmet usage and incidence of TBI.²

The State Highway Safety Council (SHSC) advises the DOT on matters relating to the programs and activities of the State in the field of highway safety. SHSC members include representatives from public, private, and all four counties.

Thank you for allowing us to testify.

Sincerely,

Kari Benes, Co-Chair
State Highway Safety Council

¹⁻² 2010-3013 Hawaii Emergency Medical Services And Hawaii Hospital Information Corporation Linked Data Provided By Hawaii State Department of Health, Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention System Branch.



Mothers Against Drunk Driving HAWAII
745 Fort Street, Suite 303
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone (808) 532-6232
Fax (808) 532-6004
hi.state@madd.org

February 11, 2015

To: Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair –Senate Committee on Transportation; Senator Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair; and members of the committee

Senator Will Espero, Chair – Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs; Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair; and members of the committee

From: Arkie Koehl/Carol McNamee, Co-Chairmen – Public Policy Committee, MADD-Hawaii

Re: Senate Bill 551 – Relating to Helmets

I am Carol McNamee, speaking in support of Senate Bill 551 on behalf of the membership of MADD Hawaii. This bill requires that operators and passengers of a motorcycle or motor scooter – if under the age of 18 – must wear a helmet. The same holds true for operators of passengers of all-terrain vehicles and other off-road vehicles.

MADD appreciates this measure's concern for improving the safety of young motorcycle, motor scooter, all terrain and other off road vehicles operators and passengers. However, we believe that ALL operators of these vehicles, whatever their age, deserve the protection that helmets provide. There is no doubt that helmets save lives and reduce serious brain injury.

Crashes and traffic fatalities involving motorcycles and motor-scooters have been increasing in part because of the increasing numbers of these vehicles on our roads. MADD is interested in keeping Hawaii's roads safe and a motorcycle operator who is hit by an impaired driver operating a passenger vehicle will have little chance of escaping serious head injury or death. The motorcycle operator himself may be impaired and if he or she collides with another vehicle or a stationary object, the same disastrous result may occur. Medical costs resulting from these crashes are enormous; the effect on the victim's family can be devastating.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that per mile traveled, the number of deaths on motorcycles in 2010 was about 30 times the number in cars. NHTSA calculates that motorcycle helmets reduce the likelihood of a crash fatality by 37 per cent. One review of the literature estimates that helmets reduce the risk of death in a crash by 42 per cent and the risk of head injuries by 69 per cent.

MADD asks that this bill be amended to include all ages to protect any operator or passenger from sustaining serious injury or death from on road or off road crashes. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [TRA Testimony](#)
Cc: refrey2001@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB551 on Feb 12, 2015 14:45PM*
Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2015 8:54:12 AM

SB551

Submitted on: 2/10/2015

Testimony for TRA/PSM on Feb 12, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Richard Frey	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [TRA Testimony](#)
Cc: wusstig@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB551 on Feb 12, 2015 14:45PM
Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2015 9:20:34 AM

SB551

Submitted on: 2/10/2015

Testimony for TRA/PSM on Feb 12, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kenny Wusstig	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Should've made one for all operators under and over eighteen to wear helmets at all times.

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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