



Testimony by:
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DIRECTOR

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

February 10, 2017
10:00AM
State Capitol, Room 423

H.B 739
RELATING TO HIGHWAY SAFETY

House Committee on Transportation

The Department of Transportation (DOT) strongly **supports** H.B. 739 relating to highway safety. This bill increases the fines for violations involving use of mobile electronic devices while operating a motor vehicle.

Nationally, 10 percent of fatal crashes, 18 percent of injury crashes and 16 percent of all police-reported motor vehicle crashes in 2014 were attributed to distraction, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. In Hawaii, distracted driving-related incidents are underreported, but the number of citations issued statewide support the fact that distracted driving continues to be a growing problem in Hawaii. During Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2016, police issued statewide over 20,000 mobile electronic device citations, which is over 6,000 more than the number issued during FFY 2015.

Additionally, past state data shows that "inattention" as a contributing circumstance can be attributed to 2,326 out of 7,105 vehicles involved in crashes. Furthermore, of those 2,326 vehicles involved in crashes, 27 of those resulted in fatalities.

Although proving the cause of crashes is difficult, drivers attempting to multi-task while driving can have slowed reaction times and cause inattention blindness (unknowingly missing objects such as stop signs, pedestrians or other vehicles), which can lead to a crash.

The DOT urges your support in passing H.B. 739 as it will serve as a deterrent to drivers who may consider driving while holding or using a mobile electronic device.

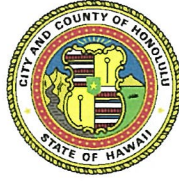
Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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KIRK CALDWELL
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MARK K. KIKUCHI, P.E.
ACTING DIRECTOR

JON Y. NOUCHI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

February 9, 2017

The Honorable Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Transportation
House of Representatives
State Capitol Room 419
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Aquino and Members of the Committee:

Subject: Testimony on House Bill No. 739 Relating to Highway Safety

We are in support of increasing driver safety throughout the island and support House Bill 739 to increase fines involving use of mobile electronic devices while operating a vehicle.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 739.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark K. Kikuchi".

Mark K. Kikuchi, P.E.
Acting Director

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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THE HONORABLE HENRY J.C. AQUINO, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2017
State of Hawai`i

February 10, 2017

RE: H.B. 739; RELATING TO HIGHWAY SAFETY.

Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Quinlan, and members of the House Committee on Transportation, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City & County of Honolulu (“Department”) submits the following testimony in opposition to H.B. 739.

The purpose of H.B. 739 is to increase the fines for use of a mobile electronic device while operating a motor vehicle, from \$250 to \$750 (and from \$300 to \$900, in a school zone).

While we understand there are significant potential dangers and risks associated with this type of behavior, we do not believe that higher fines are necessarily the answer to deterring or educating the public about this. Based on our experience, we anticipate that a mandatory fine of \$750 would force a lot more cases to trial, which would add more congestion to the current voluminous caseloads at District Court, and potentially overwhelm the courts and our Department’s resources. Notably, the year after this statute—section 291C-137, Hawaii Revised Statutes—was enacted in 2013, it is our understanding that the Judiciary had to establish emergency measures to handle the influx of approximately 11,000 new “cell phone cases.”

For all of the reasons stated above, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu opposes H.B. 739. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2017 12:16 AM
To: TRNtestimony
Cc: ahia.dye@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB739 on Feb 10, 2017 10:00AM*

LATE

HB739

Submitted on: 2/10/2017

Testimony for TRN on Feb 10, 2017 10:00AM in Conference Room 423

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ahia Dye	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc: victor.ramos@mpd.net
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB739 on Feb 10, 2017 10:00AM*

HB739

Submitted on: 2/10/2017

Testimony for TRN on Feb 10, 2017 10:00AM in Conference Room 423

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Victor K. Ramos	Individual	Support	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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