

quinlan1 - Neil

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2017 10:48 AM
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Subject: Submitted testimony for HB854 on Feb 3, 2017 10:30AM

HB854

Submitted on: 2/2/2017

Testimony for TRN on Feb 3, 2017 10:30AM in Conference Room 423

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kari Benes	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Aloha Chair and Members of the House Transportation Committee, As an individual who walks, bikes, drives and loves to listen to music, I understand the value of each. I also understand staying focused on driving is valuable to the safety of others on the roadway. I understand many who have long commutes can see the threat of getting a ticket for changing the station on Pandora as petty. However, isn't it a bit sad that so many lives are lost on our roadways, because someone feels its so important to respond to a text message, or perhaps change the station. If you pass this bill no one would know, because how would law enforcement be able to tell the difference between texting and changing the station? For the sake of saving lives, please reconsider what you are asking. Thank you for your time and service. Kari Benes

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February 3, 2017
10:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 423

H.B. 854
RELATING TO MOBILE ELECTRONIC DEVICES

House Committee on Transportation

The Department of Transportation (DOT) offers **comments** to H.B. 854 relating to mobile electronic devices. This bill authorizes drivers to use streaming music services through mobile electronic devices while driving.

Distracted driving caused by mobile electronic devices continues to be a concern in the nation, as well as in Hawaii. Drivers who attempt to multi-task while driving have experienced slowed reaction times and inattention blindness (unknowingly missing objects such as stop signs, pedestrians or other vehicles), which can lead to a crash. Hawaii's distracted driving law already allows for audio equipment use installed in their motor vehicle. Permitting the use of other handheld portable electronic equipment used solely for the purpose of electronically streaming music or other audio broadcasts during the operation of the vehicle becomes a distraction that has been proven to cause collisions defeats the purpose of Hawaii's distracted driving law.

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 citations than the number issued during FFY 2015.

The DOT urges you to carefully consider H.B. 854, in keeping all of Hawaii's roadway users safe.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.