

SB 363

RELATING TO HIGHWAY SAFETY.

Increases the fines for violations of use of mobile electronic devices while operating a motor vehicle.

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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THE HONORABLE LORRAINE R. INOUE, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2017
State of Hawai`i

February 8, 2017

RE: S.B. 363; RELATING TO HIGHWAY SAFETY.

Chair Inouye, Vice-Chair Dela Cruz and members of the Senate Committee on Transportation, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City & County of Honolulu (“Department”) submits the following testimony in opposition to S.B. 363.

The purpose of S.B. 363 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 foregoing reasons, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu opposes the passage of S.B. 363. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 4, 2017 12:53 PM
To: TRE Testimony
Cc: jamesjtz@aol.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB363 on Feb 8, 2017 14:00PM*

SB363

Submitted on: 2/4/2017

Testimony for TRE on Feb 8, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James Gauer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To: TRE Testimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB363 on Feb 8, 2017 14:00PM*

SB363

Submitted on: 2/3/2017

Testimony for TRE on Feb 8, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Sent: Tuesday, February 7, 2017 3:15 PM
To: TRE Testimony
Cc: victor.ramos@mpd.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB363 on Feb 8, 2017 14:00PM

SB363

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for TRE on Feb 8, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Victor K. Ramos	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The fine must be profound to have an impact. Think higher!

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