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STATE OF HAWAII
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March 28, 2018
1:15 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 225

S.C.R. 185 / S.R. 129
URGING STATEWIDE SUPPORT FOR TRAFFIC SAFETY LEGISLATION TO
REDUCE MOTOR VEHICLE FATALITIES AND INJURIES

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
Senate Committee on Transportation and Energy

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** S.C.R 185 / S.R 129, which urge statewide support for traffic safety legislation to reduce motor vehicle fatalities and injuries.

During the calendar years of 2013-2017, 517 people died on Hawaii's roadways. This is unacceptable and should not continue, especially since the overwhelming majority of these fatalities were preventable.

DOT strongly believes that a strong multifaceted approach using legislation, enforcement and education is necessary to reduce the number of fatalities and injuries that are occurring on our State's roads. Furthermore, strong community and legislative support, in addition to establishing stronger laws, will result in the reduction of motor vehicle fatalities and injuries.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

SCR-185

Submitted on: 3/27/2018 3:05:54 AM

Testimony for TRE on 3/28/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------|---|--------------------|--------------------|
| Melodie Aduja | Testifying for Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i | Support | No |

Comments:

To the Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair; the Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs:

To the Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair; the Honorable Will Espero, Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee on Transportation and Energy:

Good afternoon. My name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on **SCR 185 / SR 129** relating to Traffic Safety; and Legislation.

The OCC on Legislative Priorities is in favor of **SCR 185 / SR 129** and supports its passage.

SCR 185 / SR 129 is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as the Legislature is urging statewide support for traffic safety measures that increase public safety, including measures that: (1) Use general funds to establish a state drug testing lab to test blood samples of persons involved in motor vehicle crashes for alcohol and drugs because currently blood samples need to be sent out of State, which results in unnecessary delays and costs; (2) Allow county police departments to receive a portion of the fines for the citations they issue to be used for increased county enforcement efforts, equipment purchases, and training; (3) Strengthen Hawaii's Child Passenger Restraint Law by extending the age requirement for children riding in a booster seat because child safety seats, when correctly installed and used, are extremely effective in saving children's lives, reducing the risk of death by as much as 71 percent for infants and 54 percent for toddlers; (4) Provide stronger penalties for persons who violate Hawaii's Universal Seat Belt Law because research has found that seat belts reduce the risk of fatal injuries by 45 percent and the risk of critical injuries by 50 percent; (5) Establish a Universal Helmet Law that requires all motorcycle, moped, and bicycle riders to wear a helmet while riding

on public roadways to reduce a rider's chance of traumatic brain injury or paralysis after an accident; (6) Prohibit persons from riding in the cargo area of a pickup truck to reduce preventable fatalities and injuries; and (7) Establish a marijuana education program to help the public understand the perils of edible marijuana, especially the dangers of driving while impaired to prevent an increase in drug impaired driving fatalities.

The Platform of the DPH provides that "We believe in a government that will adequately, efficiently, courteously, openly, ethically and fairly administer to the needs of the people. (Platform of DPH, P.5, Line 443-448 (2016)).

"We seek to achieve energy sustainability based on renewable energy sources. We must encourage the use of clean alternative fuel sources to include our public transportation systems. We must increase the use of public transit, telecommuting, car and vanpooling, ridesharing, biking, walking, and other forms of transportation thereby reducing traffic congestion and air pollution. We must also urgently develop the use of a variety of cost-effective energy providing systems, encourage transit-oriented development, and support tax incentives that encourage renewable energy initiatives." (Platform of DPH, P.8, Line 443-448 (2016)).

Given that **SCR 185 / SR 129** supports full consideration and robust discussion by the Legislature on these issues and other traffic safety legislation in the current and future legislative sessions to address roadway safety so that all of Hawaii's residents and visitors arrive alive, it is the position of the OCC on Legislative Priorities to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC on Legislative Priorities

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