

VALERIE T. POINDEXTER

*Council Member
Chair, Committee on Parks and Recreation
Council District 1*



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HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

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March 11, 2019

Senate Committee on Transportation
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
Senator Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair

Email: seninouye@capitol.hawaii.gov
Email: senharimoto@capitol.hawaii.gov

Subject: Testimony Supporting HB529 HD1, Relating to Motor Vehicles

Hearing: March 13, 2019, 1:00 p.m., Conference Room 225

Dear Chair Inouye and Vice Chair Harimoto:

On behalf of myself and the constituents of Council District 1, Hāmākua, County of Hawai'i, I would like to express our support of HB529 HD1, and submit a brief testimony as follows:

This bill prohibits any vehicle, except a low-range, four-wheel drive vehicle, from being driven through or in Waipi'o Valley, except under certain circumstances.

Waipi'o Valley Road is one of the steepest roads in the world with a 25% grade. A 2-wheel car can burn its brakes out with its numerous twists and turns. It is a dangerous one lane road where you must be in first gear all the way down to avoid brake failure. Those not familiar with it often get stuck on the road, especially when downhill traffic must yield to uphill traffic. To drive this road you must have extreme confidence in your driving skills and your vehicle. Rental car companies inform their customers not to go into Waipi'o, but visitors ignore the warning and often need assistance back up from locals who are helpful and often frustrated that the laws are not stricter to prevent these safety issues.

I strongly support and urge the enactment of HB529 HD1. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Valerie T. Poindexter".

Valerie T. Poindexter