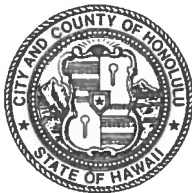


POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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CLYDE K. HO
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE **GLK-BL**

March 9, 2020

The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
and Members
Committee on Transportation
State Senate
415 South Beretania Street, Room 225
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Inouye and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill No. 2004, H.D. 1, Relating to Child Passenger Restraints

I am Acting Major Gordon Lum Kee of District 7 (East Honolulu) of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD supports House Bill No. 2004, H.D. 1, Relating to Child Passenger Restraints.

This legislation encourages infants and toddlers to be properly restrained in rear facing child safety seats for as long as possible, as these types of seats have been shown to reduce crash forces to a young child's spine, neck, and head in a motor vehicle collision. The HPD is also in favor of increasing the fines for second and subsequent convictions to highlight the seriousness of the consequences of noncompliance.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gordon Lum Kee".

Gordon Lum Kee, Acting Major
District 7

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Ballard".

FOR Susan Ballard
Chief of Police

**Testimony Before the Senate
Committee on Transportation
H.B. 2004 Child Passenger Restraints; Requirements; Penalties
Lisa Dau, RN, Coordinator, Safe Kids Hawaii, Kapi'olani Medical
Center for Women and Children
March 5, 2020**

Senator Inouye, we thank you for convening this hearing on this vital child safety legislation, the *Child Passenger Restraints; Requirements; Penalties*.

We submit this testimony in support of H.B. 2004, which would help keep children safe in motor vehicles from the day they are born until they are old enough to safely use adult seat belts. The major change that H.B. 2004 would introduce is requiring children to be properly restrained in a rear-facing child safety car seat that meets federal motor vehicle safety standards until they are two years old.

Backed by Pediatricians, Based on Science

The importance for parents and the law to adhere to these requirements is backed by science and cannot be understated. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) strongly recommends the use of rear-facing car seats for as long as possible, typically until the age of two. This is what the pediatricians tell us: at this stage of development, children have a large head in proportion to their bodies, in addition to a neck and skeleton that are still developing. Therefore, they are vulnerable to head and spinal injuries in a motor vehicle crash as their neck and skeleton are not capable of supporting them during a crash.¹ Rear-facing car seats protect the head, neck, and spine of infants by redistributing crash forces over the entire body.²

Furthermore, consistent with AAP research, H.B. 2004 updates important occupant protection requirements for kids as they grow older and taller. Children two years or older, but less than four years of age, should be restrained in a rear-facing or forward-facing child safety seat with an internal harness. Children four years or older, but less than ten years of age are to be restrained in a child safety seat or booster seat. However, children seven to ten years of old who are over four feet and nine inches in height are exempt from the child safety seat or booster seat requirements if they are correctly restrained by a lap and shoulder seat belt assembly.

Sixteen Jurisdictions Make the Change; Human Face of Car Seat Safety

Since the AAP adopted the new guidelines, 15 states and DC require children younger than two years old to be in a rear-facing child seat, and a number of other states are considering the change.³ We hope to increase that number to 17 with the passage of this bill.

One of the states considering strengthening its car seat law relating to rear-facing this year is Wisconsin. The science behind such legislative reforms is important to understand but so are the stories which put a human face on the issue, like this one from Wisconsin. It is about Cara Klemm and her three young boys. In 2017, a Wisconsin car crash involving a dump truck took the life of Ms. Klemm, the boys' mother. However, her three sons who were also in the collision, Wiley, Wyatt and Wesley, ages 1, 4, and 6 respectively, were protected in their back-seat child restraints. The boys sustained minor injuries, including Wiley who was seated in his rear-facing car seat. Their father, Teddy Klemm, and investigators are convinced that they survived because they were properly buckled into their car seats. Furthermore, "making sure that [Wiley] was still rear facing kept him safe and made sure he wasn't ejected," said

Kimberly Hess from the Center for Childhood Safety. “If they weren’t restrained and restrained appropriately in those car seats, there’s no way they would have survived.”⁴

Safe Kids Worldwide Expertise

Safe Kids Worldwide is a grass roots network of more than 400 coalitions across the United States, including Safe Kids Hawaii lead by Kapi’olani Medical Center for Women and Children. Our mission is to prevent unintentional injury among kids 19 and under, which is the number one killer of children. Fatalities from car crashes due to the nonuse or misuse of child safety restraint systems are among these preventable tragedies.

Child passenger safety has been central to the expertise of Safe Kids Worldwide since its founding in 1988. One of our child passenger safety programs is “Safe Kids Buckle Up,” which began in 1997 and has since become one of the most successful behavior change campaigns with a public health focus.⁵ Included in this program are car seat checkup events and inspection stations that help parents install and use car seats correctly. We are designated by the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) to train and certify child passenger safety technicians that will provide parents with the knowledge and assistance to properly use car seats to protect their children. We also advocate for laws and regulations that prevent childhood injuries. Common sense, evidence-based laws, such as car seat and booster seat laws across the country, are crucial. That is why *your* work and leadership is so important.

One child’s life lost to a preventable injury is one too many. Together, we need to work to protect all children from preventable injuries, one ride at a time, one appropriate car seat at a time.

We thank you Senator Inouye and members of the committee for your leadership and hope that the Legislature will pass H.B. 2004.

Research provided by Safe Kids Worldwide intern, Joshua Oyos, a student at the New York University, Abu Dhabi campus

¹ American Academy of Pediatrics. *Policy-Statement—Child Passenger Safety*. Available at <https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/142/5/e20182460>

² American Academy of Pediatrics. *AAP Updates Recommendation on Car Seats*. Available at <https://www.aap.org/en-us/about-the-aap/aap-press-room/pages/aap-updates-recommendation-on-car-seats.aspx>

³ Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety. *17th Annual roadman of State Highway Safety Laws*. Available at <https://saferoads.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Advocates-for-Highway-and-Auto-Safety-2020-Roadmap-of-State-Highway-Safety-Laws.pdf>

⁴ WBAY. *Father widowed by crash makes emotional plea: Buckle your kids*. Available at <https://www.wbay.com/content/news/A-life-saving-decision-419319064.html>

⁵ Safe Kids Worldwide. *Buckle Up*. Available at <https://www.safekids.org/buckle>

LATE

HB-2004-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/8/2020 5:43:55 PM

Testimony for TRS on 3/9/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lea Minton	Individual	Support	Yes

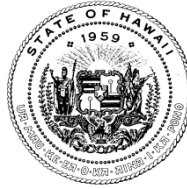
Comments:

Dear Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Harimoto and members of the Committee on Transportation,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in STRONG SUPPORT of HB2004_HD1. As a Child Passenger Safety Technician, I know the importance of ensuring our keiki are properly restrained while traveling in vehicles. Data has shown that between 90-95% of car seats are not installed correctly, increasing the risk of harm to our keiki if they are in a motor vehicle accident. We want to protect them to the best of our ability and that involves having children up through age 2 in rear facing seats so that the car seat takes the brunt of the impact, and they are less likely to have head, neck and spinal injuries. This is important for the health of our community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Le'a Minton



TESTIMONY BY:

JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
LYNN A.S. ARAKI-REGAN
DEREK J. CHOW
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN

LATE

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

March 9, 2020
1:15 P.M.
State Capitol, Room 225

H.B. 2004, H.D. 1
RELATING TO CHILD PASSENGER RESTRAINTS

Senate Committee on Transportation

The Department of Transportation **supports** H.B. 2004, H.D. 1. Keeping children safe on our roadways is one our highest priorities.

We support the raising of the age for rear facing, and increasing fines, as well as support the raising of child's age for vehicle operators to ensure that the child is properly restrained in a safety or booster seat.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, "infants and toddlers should ride in a rear-facing car safety seat as long as possible, until they reach the highest weight or height allowed by their seat. Most convertible seats have limits that will allow children to ride rear-facing for 2 years or more."

Currently, 11 states have requirements that children under the age of two be rear-facing. It is recommended that the State of Hawaii should also adopt these requirements.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.