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STATE OF HAWAII
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February 7, 2020
10:00 A.M.
State Capitol, Room 423

LATE

H. B. 2152
RELATING TO TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS

House Committee on Transportation

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** H.B 2152 which requires additional circumstances under which every vehicle, including motor vehicles, motorcycles, motor scooters, and motorized bicycles, moving on any public highway in the State must display its lighted head lamps.

Between 2015-2019, there were 545 motor vehicle fatalities on our roadways. We can and need to do more to reduce the number of fatalities to zero.

As such, the DOT supports all efforts to improve traffic safety and reduce the number of senseless deaths and injuries on our roadways.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Testifier: Ted Kanemori – Retiree - Self

Committee(s): Transportation and Judiciary

Meeting: Friday February 7, 2020 – 10AM

Measure number: HB 2152 – RELATING TO TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS



Chair, committee members,

Thank you for reviewing my testimony regarding House Bill 2152.

I would like to address specifically, Section 1, Paragraph 2, Item 2 of this bill, the fact that vehicle headlights should be turned on “When windshield wipers are in continuous use”.

Here in Hawaii, if you drive a car through a rain downpour that obstructs visibility to a point where you have to slow down to give the car in front of you lots of room, a serious problem is that when you back off from that car in front, you won't be able to see it. This condition is more prevalent on the H3 Hwy, the Likilike Hwy or the Pali Hwy and this is how scary auto accidents happen.

Whereas our highway streetlights do not function during the daytime, during a heavy downpour, there are no streetlights to help see the cars ahead.

Whereas asphalt surfaces, slick wet conditions and old worn lane marking also add to these difficult distressing conditions, during inclement weather being able to stop your vehicle in time is critical.

Whereas, during inclement weather conditions, if your vehicle lights are off and you cannot see the vehicle in front of you, the vehicle in back probably will be having difficulty seeing you too.

Hawaii drivers would be safer, and drivers in the near vicinity would be safer if there was a better definition as to when it would be prudent and mandatory to use the headlights on a vehicle.

The following is a link to the AAA site that lists how the other US states define their headlight rules. At least 17 other states require the use of headlights when the vehicles wipers are in use.

<https://drivinglaws.aaa.com/tag/headlight-use/>

HB 2152 reminds everyone to use their vehicles headlights when driving conditions require you to have your windshield wipers in continuous use or visibility is less than 500 feet.

The goal is to make your vehicle more visible to others AND to increase your ability as a driver to identify hazards around you. Whenever in doubt, just turn on your headlights (low beam).

If this message can reach all motorists, explicitly or subliminally our roads and drivers would definitely be safer.

Thank you,
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