



TESTIMONY BY:

JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

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

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

February 25, 2020
12:00 P.M.
State Capitol, Room 016

S.B. 2106, S.D. 1
RELATING TO CHILD PASSENGER RESTRAINTS

Senate Committee on Judiciary

The Department of Transportation **supports** S.B. 2106, S.D. 1. Keeping children safe on our roadways is one of our highest priorities.

We support the raising of the age for rear-facing, and increasing fines, as well as support the raising of the 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.

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET · HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 529-3111 · INTERNET: www.honolulu-pd.org

LATE

KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR



SUSAN BALLARD
CHIEF

JOHN D. McCARTHY
CLYDE K. HO
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE WO-KK

February 24, 2020

The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair
and Members
Committee on Judiciary
House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 325
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Lee and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill No. 1732, Relating to Disorderly Conduct

I am Walter Ozeki, Major of the Criminal Investigation Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD supports House Bill No 1732, Relating to Disorderly Conduct.

Because we live in a world where almost everyone has the ability to convey messages to a wide audience with relative anonymity, we have seen the incidences of messages being conveyed through various mediums, particularly the Internet that include threats of violence, mass violence, and/or destruction of property. In most of these instances, the messages are commonly intended as pranks or to disrupt services (such as the operations of educational facilities) and results in unnecessary expenditure of significant resources by law enforcement and disruption to the community.

As a result of previous court rulings, the current Hawaii Revised Statutes does not currently include any offenses that can be used to address false or misleading threats. In calendar year 2018, there were more than 50 such incidences, and in none of these incidences were the responsible parties prosecuted. With no accountability, these type of incidences will continue to increase.

The HPD urges you to support House Bill No. 1732, Relating to Disorderly Conduct.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

APPROVED:

Handwritten signature of Susan Ballard in black ink.

Susan Ballard
Chief of Police

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Walter Ozeki in black ink.

Walter Ozeki, Major
Criminal Investigation Division



Date: February 21, 2020

TO: Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair
Members of the Judiciary Committee

FR: Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition

RE: SB 2106 SD1 - RELATING TO CHILD PASSENGER RESTRAINTS – IN SUPPORT

Amends requirements for child passengers. Requires rear facing child safety seats for children under two years of age. Raises certain fines for violations.

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Keohokalole, and members of the committee,

The Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition strongly supports SB 2106 SD 1. Injury is one of the leading causes of death and disability in Hawaii for all children, responsible for more deaths of children ages 1-17 than all other causes combined. Automobile safety has been our major focus as traffic related injuries continue to be a leading cause of death for Hawaii's children and youth.

We support requiring children to ride rear facing as long as possible and at least until age two years. The American Academy of Pediatrics guideline is that "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." If enacted, Hawai'i will join 14 other states and the District of Columbia in adopting this national standard to protect the most vulnerable motor vehicle passengers.

The rear facing position protects the child's brain and spinal cord, which are the body parts most prone to devastating and permanent injuries in the case of trauma. Infants' and small children's heads are larger and heavier in proportion to their bodies. This can cause significant injury to the neck and spine when crash forces are applied to them. Rear facing car seats spread crash forces over the whole area of a child's back, head and neck, protecting the spinal cord from snapping which will lead to death or permanent severe injury.

We also support increasing fines to reflect the significant risk for injury in violating this law and support other changes to the statute to ensure that every child is properly restrained in a child restraint, booster seat, or seat belt as appropriate for their age and height.

KIPC's mission is to prevent and reduce injuries to children in Hawaii. With the help of our members, community partners and volunteers we have made major strides in improving vehicle occupant protection for children in our state. Safety Seat Inspection Stations and community events statewide offer hands-on education free of charge.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Karen Tessier

Karen Tessier
KIPC Child Passenger Safety Program Coordinator

SB-2106-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 11:15:52 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Dau	Testifying for Safe Kids Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2106-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2020 4:53:59 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Charles Hirata	Testifying for Maui County Child Passenger Safety	Support	No

Comments:

February 21, 2020

Dear Senator Rhoads and Members,

My name is Charles Hirata and I retired as a captain with the Maui Police Department. I was the first person in the State of Hawaii trained as a Child Passenger Safety Technician and became an instructor in this field. I have taught this course in all of Hawaii's counties, on the mainland, and throughout the Pacific region.

Since the last change to the child seat law in 2007, technology and research has advanced, giving us a better understanding of injury dynamics and child restraints that allow children to ride rear-facing for a longer period of time. Although we promote rear-facing to two years old, we strongly feel that making it a legal requirement would greatly reduce the possibility of a severe or fatal injury to the child.

I fully support this measure because it will enhance safety for children riding in vehicles on our roadways. I was the commander of the Maui Police Traffic Section for 11 years and saw first hand the consequences of not properly restraining children. It was those memories that drove me to take action by educating the public about the misuse and non-use of child restraints.

Because children are vulnerable, they depend on adults to ensure that they can ride safely on our roads. I ask that you support this bill that will make it safer for Hawaii's keiki.

Charles Hirata

Captain (Ret.)

Maui Police Department

