

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



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

February 5, 2020
1:15 P.M.
State Capitol, Room 225

S.B. 2401
RELATING TO TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS.

Senate Committee on Transportation

The Department of Transportation **supports** S.B. 2401 which repeals several exemptions from the prohibition on operating a pickup truck with a passenger seated in the bed or load-carrying area, including the exemption that allows passengers over 12 years of age to ride in the bed or load-carrying area.

According to Fatal Analysis Reporting System, from 2015 through 2019, there were two roadway crashes that resulted in four fatalities on our roadways due to the victims riding in the bed of a truck.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

LATE

February 5, 2020

TO: Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair Transportation
Senator Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair Transportation
Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation

FR: Liane Sumida, General Manager

RE: SB 2401 – Repealing exemptions from the prohibition on operating a pickup truck with a passenger seated in the bed or load-carrying area - SUPPORT

AAA Hawaii was founded in 1915 in Honolulu and is a leader in motorist services and a strong advocate for traffic safety. With more than 165,000 members, service to and the safety of our members, other motorists, and all road users is our founding and continuing purpose.

We have made great technological and legislative improvements for the safety of automobile occupants by developing features such as seatbelts and airbags, and making their use mandatory. However, the bed or load-carrying area of a pickup truck lacks any of these safety features. The bed or load-carrying area of a pickup truck is designed for the sole purpose of carrying cargo. Any individual, regardless of his/her age, seating in the bed or load-carrying area of a pickup truck is extremely vulnerable to receive severe injuries or fatality in case of an automobile accident, or even in case of an abrupt braking by the driver. We have always advocated for the total restriction of operating a pickup truck with a passenger seated in the bed or load-carrying area.

SB 2401 repeals several exemptions from the prohibition on operating a pickup truck with a passenger seated in the bed or load-carrying area, including the exemption that allows passengers over twelve years of age to ride in the bed or load-carrying area. This is a step in the right direction to improve traffic safety in our state.

We support SB 2401 and respectfully urge a YES vote on this bill.

Sincerely,
Liane Sumida
General Manager

1130 N. Nimitz Highway, Suite A170, Honolulu, HI 96817

Auto Club Enterprises provides service to more than 14 million members



LATE

SB-2401

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 11:35:03 AM

Testimony for TRS on 2/5/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kari Benes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Senator Inouye, Harimoto and members of the committee on transportation,

Mahalo for hearing this measure. This measure would stress the importance that the cargo area of a truck is designed specifically for cargo and is not meant to carry our friends and family.

-Kari Benes