

TESTIMONY BY:

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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. 2508
RELATING TO THE STATEWIDE TRAFFIC CODE.

Senate Committee on Transportation

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports with amendments**, S.B.2508 Relating to the Statewide Traffic Code. This bill clarifies the term “accident” to mean collision for certain provisions of the statewide traffic code.

For a long time, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has been encouraging the term “accident” to be a collision or crash. This was due to the definition of the word “accident” to mean an unplanned event resulting in unintended consequences. In relation to a motor vehicle, all events are planned and intended, i.e. if a driver speeds or drinks, they knowingly believe that some consequences can occur, namely striking another vehicle and injuring or killing someone. It was because of this that NHTSA encouraged everyone to use the term collision because it infers that it was not an unplanned event.

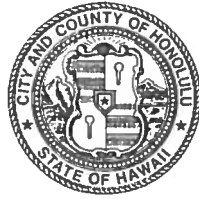
The DOT would highly suggest that S.B. 2508 be further amended to change all of the wording “accidents” to the word “collisions” for consistency. This would help educate all reading these sections to get accustomed to using the word “collisions.”

The DOT urges the committee to pass S.B.2508 with the suggested amendments.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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OUR REFERENCE CT-LC

February 5, 2020

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

Dear Chair Inouye and Members:

SUBJECT: Senate Bill No. 2508, Relating to the Statewide Traffic Code

I am Calvin Tong, Major of the Traffic Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD supports Senate Bill No. 2508, Relating to the Statewide Traffic Code.

The HPD supports the proposal to clarify that the term "accident" includes a "collision" in the statewide traffic code. As a department, we replaced the term accident with collision several years ago. We believe that the great majority of collisions on our roads are preventable and should not be considered accidents. This change in the statewide traffic code would be more in line with our department's policies and procedures.

The HPD urges you to support Senate Bill No. 2508, Relating to the Statewide Traffic Code.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Ballard".

Susan Ballard
Chief of Police

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Calvin Tong".

Calvin Tong, Major
Traffic Division