



February 2, 2021

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
PANDEMIC & DISASTER PREPARADNESS  
ON HB 273 RELATING TO LICENSE RENEWALS**

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, and committee members. I am Gareth Sakakida Managing Director of the Hawaii Transportation Association (HTA) with over 375 members involved with the commercial ground transportation industry.

HTA supports this bill. The Hawaii Department of Transportation did laudable work during this COVID pandemic trying to keep up with the many federal regulation exceptions, and, in turn, communicating them to the driving public. Much time was still required to digest these movements and to post them with their ever changing deadlines. Multiple versions were produced which naturally led to confusion.

Then we had the DMVs close down which only served to exacerbate confusion, frustration, and uncertainty among drivers and motor carriers.

We believe permitting HDOT to allow mail in license renewals where possible would go a long way to smooth over the process in an emergency.

Mahalo.

LATE

**HB-273**

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 1:45:25 PM

Testimony for PDP on 2/2/2021 9:45:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dr. Jim Shon        | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

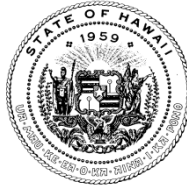
Madam Chair, Members of the Committee,

I strongly support any mechanisms that reduce the exposure and health risks for seniors renewing licenses. Standing in long lines, exposed to many potential sources of infection should be avoided at all costs.

Last year attempts to renew on line were met with confusing and obscure reasons for the denial. Therefore, I would also suggest requiring the DOT and DMVs review their on line forms and written communications so that the public can understand issues such as sudden loss of documentation by the DMV.

Sincerely,

Jim Shon



LATE

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 2, 2021  
9:45 A.M.  
State Capitol, Teleconference

**H.B. 273**  
**RELATING TO LICENSE RENEWALS**

House Committee on Pandemic & Disaster Preparedness

---

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports with concerns** H.B. 273 which is intended to allow the DOT to enact emergency rules pursuant to section 91-3 for the renewal of driver's licenses by mail or online. Renewal by mail is already provided for in §286-107 (c), HRS, which in part states, "(c) Any person who holds a category (1), (2), or (3) license issued under this part who is unable to appear in person before the examiner of drivers to apply for a renewal of the driver's license, may, if the person is not disqualified from renewing the license under subsection (a) except as provided under subsection (h), apply for a renewal by mail..." Note that §91-3, HRS, already gives DOT the authority needed to adopt emergency rules for services that meet the requirements of the statute.

As stated above, renewal of the driver's license by mail is already available to the public. However, existing driver's license holders that intend to obtain a REAL ID credential for the first time would not be eligible for online renewal or renewal by mail. Many drivers who last renewed their 8-year driver's license in 2013 thru part of 2014 may not yet have a REAL ID driver's license and would like to apply for one. Additionally, driver's license holders that already have a REAL ID driver's license are required by Department of Homeland Security Final Rules to take a photo in-person at the county office every 16 years, i.e., every other renewal application for 8-year licenses.

Since the counties do not have an online system available to accept driver's license renewals, the counties may want to revise the bill's effective date to allow for a system to be developed.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.