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STATE OF HAWAII
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February 26, 2021
2:00 P.M.
State Capitol, Teleconference

H.B. 458
RELATING TO DRIVER'S LICENSES

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports with amendments** of H.B. 458 which extends the renewal period from two years to four years for licensees 72 years through 79 years of year, provided that the licensee has fewer than two moving traffic violation convictions since turning age 72.

Hawaii DOT has not found local data to indicate drivers between 72 and 79 years of age are at higher risk of causing or being involved in crashes. Also, based on a review of an American Automobile Association document which included information on age-based license renewals from 51 jurisdictions, only 21 of the U.S. jurisdictions polled have a shorter renewal cycle based on the age of the driver. Those age-based policies were generally longer than four years.

However, we recommend that the bill be amended to remove the requirement of having less than two moving traffic violation convictions for this age group to qualify for the extended term license. A "moving traffic violation" as defined in the bill, would include a broad list of infractions such as riding a moped in a bike lane, carrying a passenger on a moped, speeding, improper left turn, improper right turn, etc., just to name a few. Convictions of this type do not provide any indication of a driver's ability to safely operate a vehicle for any age group. The requirement of having fewer than two moving traffic violation convictions to qualify for the longer term would be discriminatory for this age group because the same standard is not required of any other age group.

The qualifying conviction requirement is found in two places, SECTION 1, Page 1, Subsection (1) (B):

"(B) Seventy-two years of age or older but younger than eighty years of age; ~~[provided further that the licensee's driving record does not include two or more convictions of a moving traffic violation after the licensee attained the age of seventy-two years;]~~"

and SECTION 1, Page 2, Subsection (2):

Replace,

(2) The license shall expire on the first birthday of the licensee occurring not less than two years after the date of the issuance of the license if, at that time, the licensee is [~~seventy-two~~]:

“(A) Seventy-two years of age or older[i-] but younger 10 than eighty years of age, and the licensee’s driving record includes two or more convictions of a moving traffic violation after the licensee turned seventy-two years of age; or

(B) Eighty years of age or older; and”

With,

“(2) The license shall expire on the first birthday of the licensee occurring not less than two years after the date of the issuance of the license if, at that time, the licensee is [~~seventy-two~~] eighty-years years of age or older; and ”

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

HB458 Relating to Driver's Licenses

Thursday, February 26, 2021

Aloha Rep. Nakashima, Chair, Rep. Matayoshi, Vice-Chair and committee members,

I am a senior, who resides in House District 19 and Senate District 9. I present this testimony on behalf of PABEA. The Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs has a statutory obligation to advocate on behalf of the senior citizens of Hawaii. While we advise the Executive Office on Aging (EOA), we do not speak on its behalf.

PABEA strongly supports HB458, to extend the renewal period, from two years to four years, of licensees who are at least 72 years of age, but not yet 80 years of age, provided their driving record does not include two or more moving traffic violation convictions after the licensee attained the age of 72.

For those accustomed to getting eight-year licenses, it seems like one just gets his/her license renewed when it's time to renew in again.

There are safeguards built in for older drivers (i.e., older drivers in Hawaii must undergo mandatory vision screening). More than 600,000 drivers over the age of 70 give up driving voluntarily every year. Insurance rates are typically lower for older drivers than for young adults and teens. Another plus is that older drivers typically drive less in general and often try to avoid nighttime driving.

Please support HB 458 to extend renewal periods for licensees between the ages of 72 and 80, under certain conditions.

Mahalo for allowing me to testify.

Barbara J. Service MSW (ret.)

Senior advocate

HB-458

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 2:25:18 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/26/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Definitely support this bill. I know of many senior citizens over the age of 70 who are in good health and drive safely. A review of driving citations may provide evidence of the safe driving records of seniors between 70 and 80. Too, I think it would provide some relief to the overworked Driver's license staff.

HB-458

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 8:06:39 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/26/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support hb458

Testimony of
Gayle Harimoto
in Strong Support of
HB 458
Relating to Driver's Licenses

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Friday, February 26, 2021
2:00pm

Dear Chair Nakashima, Vice-Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Gayle Harimoto and I am writing this testimony in strong support of HB 458. The law, as currently written, is ageist, inefficacious, overly burdensome, and insensitive to the senior citizen community.

Due to the current renewal requirements, I am practically perpetually applying for a new driver's license. I renewed my license in October of 2020. Months later, I had to begin the process over again by scheduling a renewal appointment, making an eye test appointment, and figuring out how to navigate the online requirement aspect of the renewal process. This online aspect is especially burdensome for me. I am not computer-literate, much as many others in the senior citizen community. To require the use of the internet to schedule renewal is ageist and burdensome for us, if not even an impossible demand. I am fortunate enough that I can call on friends and family to help me to navigate this online renewal process, but there are many other seniors who do not have this ability. Requiring renewal every two years makes this inability a constant problem.

Perhaps the law is written so as to disincentivize seniors from driving. That is my suspicion, and I do not think this attempt is efficacious at all. Seniors will drive if they want to drive.

Finally, in this time of economic difficulty, why is the city spending all this extra money to process renewals every two years? We should be looking for ways to save money, and a non-sense, humbug requirement like the current two year renewal requirement should be the first wasteful policy to go. I respectfully ask for your Committee's favorable consideration of this bill to help the senior citizen community in making this process more equitable and easier for all kupuna.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of HB 458.

HB-458

Submitted on: 2/25/2021 12:00:43 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/26/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Jones	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

2/26/2021: Testimony Supporting HB458 / Relating to Driver’s Licenses

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice-Chair Matayoshi, and Committee Members:

I write in support of HB 458 (companion SB908), which would extend the drivers’ license renewal period from two (2) years to four (4) years for drivers between the ages of 72 and 80. I, too, agree that these licensees’ driving records should not include two or more moving traffic violations after the licensee has reached age 72. As someone with a mom who still drives at age 87 and father who STILL works on contract for the State of Hawaii – also at age 87, I strongly believe that Hawai`i’s seniors do NOT suddenly become senile after reaching age 72. Extending the renewal period from 2 to 4 years for drivers between ages 72 and 80 would also help free up appointment times for younger drivers needing to either obtain or renew their licenses. So long as these senior drivers have not incurred two or more moving traffic violations—demonstrating relatively safe driving records, then the drivers’ license renewal period should absolutely be extended to four (4) years for folks over age 72.

For all of the above reasons, I urge you to please pass HB 458 out of your committee. Many thanks for this opportunity to present this testimony in support of HB458.

Nancy Jones, PO Box 1462, Wai`anae, HI 96792

HB-458

Submitted on: 2/25/2021 12:08:54 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/26/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Zeb Jones	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

2/26/2021: Testimony In Support HB458 / Relating to Driver’s Licenses

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice-Chair Matayoshi, and Committee Members:

I present this testimony in support of HB458 (companion SB908) to extend the renewal period from two years to four (4) years for licensees between the ages of 72 and 80 – so long as driving records do not include two or more moving traffic violations after the licensee has reached age 72. I renewed my license last year and was a bit insulted that since I am now over age 70, I am no longer capable of doing something I’ve been doing since I was 16 years of age. It’s as if – I am now less dependable, senile, and dangerous. I have logged over 2 million miles driving cross-country on an 18-wheeler – 7,000 miles per week – in the mid 1980s hauling produce between California and Florida. When I turned 72, I did not lose all of those skills as I was clearly able to drive myself (and my wife, who also renewed her license last October) to our drivers’ license renewal office. As more of Hawai`i’s seniors continue to live longer, it makes perfect sense to grant 4 year driving licenses to people who do NOT have “two or more moving violation convictions after the licensee has attained the age of 72” as long as the renewal continues to include an eye test. However, if this standard applies to people my age or older, it must ALSO apply to every other Hawai`i driver or this caveat will be considered discrimination.

For all of the above reasons, I urge you to please pass HB 458 out of your committee. Mahalo for this opportunity to present this testimony in support of HB 458.

Zeb Jones, PO Box 1462, Wai`anae, HI 96792

LATE *Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

STATE	General Driver License Validity Period	@ 72 years of age Driver License Period	Elderly Period Restrictions
ALABAMA	4	4	none
ALASKA	5	5	none
ARIZONA	5	5	none
ARKANSAS	8	4 or 8	69+ are given the option over a 4 or 8 yr license
CALIFORNIA	5	5	none
COLORADO	5	5	none
CONNECTICUT	6	6	none
DELAWARE	8	8	none
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	8	8	none
FLORIDA	8	8	none
GEORGIA	8	8	none
HAWAII	8	2	72+ is 2 years
IDAHO	4	4	none
ILLINOIS	4	4	81-86 is 2 years, 87+ is 1 year
INDIANA	6	6	75-85 is 3 years , over 85 is 2 years
IOWA	6	2	70+ is 2 years
KANSAS	6	6	none
KENTUCKY	4	4	none
LOUISIANA	6	6	none
MAINE	4	4	none
MARYLAND	5	5	none
MICHIGAN	4	4	none
MINNESOTA	4	4	none
MISSISSIPPI	4	4	none
MISSOURI	6	3	over 70 is 3 years
MONTANA	8	8	none
NEBRASKA	5	5	none
NEVADA	8	8	none
NEW HAMPSHIRE	5	5	none
NEW JERSEY	4	4	none
NEW MEXICO	8	8	79+is 1 year
NEW YORK	8	8	none
NORTH CAROLINA	8	5	66+ is 5 years
NORTH DAKOTA	4	4	none
OHIO	4	4	none

OKLAHOMA	4	4	none
ONTARIO	5	5	none
OREGON	8	8	none
PENNSYLVANIA	8	8	none
RHODE ISLAND	5	2	70+ is 2 years
SOUTH CAROLINA	8	8	none
SOUTH DAKOTA	5	5	none
TENNESSEE	5	5	none
TEXAS	6	6	none
UTAH	5	5	none
VERMONT	4	4	none
VIRGINIA	8	8	none
WASHINGTON	6	6	none
WEST VIRGINIA	5	5	none
WISCONSON	8	8	none
WYOMING	4	4	none

RECAP of License Periods offered to those 72 years of age:

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At age 72, only 3 of 50 states require 2 year licenses

HAWAII, IOWA, RHODE ISLAND

At age 72 only 4 of 50 states require under 4 years licenses

HAWAII, IOWA, RHODE ISLAND

MISSOURI