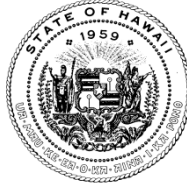


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



TESTIMONY BY:

JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

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

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

February 11, 2021
3:00 P.M.
State Capitol, Teleconference

S.B. 908
RELATING TO DRIVER'S LICENSES

Senate Committee on Transportation

The Department of Transportation **supports** S.B. 908 which extends the renewal period from two years to four years for licensees 72 years of age through 79 years provided that the licensee has fewer than two moving violations 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.

This bill would provide relief to drivers between ages 72 and 79 years regarding the frequency of having to visit the county DMV to renew their driver's license and result in decreased office traffic.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



1001 Bishop Street | Suite 625 | Honolulu, HI 96813-2830
1-866-295-7282 | Fax: 808-536-2882
aarp.org/hi | aarphi@aarp.org | twitter.com/AARPHawaii
facebook.com/AARPHawaii

**The State Legislature
The Senate
Committee on Transportation
Thursday, February 11, 2021
3:00 p.m.**

TO: The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair

RE: S.B. 908 Relating to Drivers' License

Aloha Chair Lee and Members of the Committee:

My name is Keali'i Lopez and I am the State Director for AARP Hawai'i. AARP is a membership organization of people age fifty and over, with nearly 145,000 members in Hawai'i.

AARP Hawai'i supports the intent of S.B. 908 which extends the renewal period from two years to four years for licensees who are seventy-two years of age or older but younger than eighty years of age; provided their driving record does not include two or more moving traffic violation convictions after the licensee attained the age of seventy-two years.

While S.B. 908 is a step in the right direction, AARP wants all drivers to be treated equally. Renewal policies should be evidence-based such as functional assessments for vision, hearing and cognitive abilities, and not age-based. Many older adults continue to be safe and responsible drivers. State and local governments should improve public safety by requiring all drivers to renew licenses at regular intervals and ensuring that they meet the minimum physical requirements and conditions to safely operate a vehicle.

Thank you for the opportunity to support the intent of S.B. 908.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keali'i Lopez".

Keali'i Lopez, AARP Hawai'i

SB-908

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 10:10:28 AM

Testimony for TRS on 2/11/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Candace Yanagihara	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am strongly in favor of extending period to renew drivers' licenses for those who are 72 and older to 4 years as is worded in bill SB208.

SB-908

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 10:33:03 AM

Testimony for TRS on 2/11/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kathryn Inkinen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I believe that age 72 is today's 82. We are healthy, viable citizens. Renewing licensing every two years is a waste of public funds. As long as we have no violations, we would like to continue to be active and would not like to be treated as senior citizens yyyyy

In strong support of SB908

Dear Committee Chair Lee, Vice-Chair Inouye, and Transportation Committee Members,

I am writing in strong support of SB 908. 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.

LATE

SB-908

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 9:32:20 AM

Testimony for TRS on 2/11/2021 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Testimony In Support of SB 908 / Relating to Driver's Licenses

Aloha Senator Lee, Senator Inouye and Committee Members:

I present this testimony in support of SB 908 (companion HB458) 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 SB 908 out of your committee. Many thanks for this opportunity to present this testimony in support of SB908.

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

LATE

SB-908

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 9:34:12 AM

Testimony for TRS on 2/11/2021 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Testimony Supporting SB 908 / Relating to Driver's Licenses

Aloha Senator Lee, Senator Inouye and Committee Members:

I write in support of SB 908 (companion HB458), 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 SB 908 out of your committee. Many thanks for this opportunity to present this testimony in support of SB908.

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