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March 16, 2021
3:00 P.M.
State Capitol, Teleconference

H.B. 273, H.D. 1
RELATING TO LICENSE RENEWALS

Senate Committee on Transportation

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports with concerns** H.B. 273, H.D. 1 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), Hawaii Revised Statutes (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.

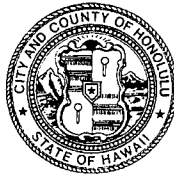
Since the counties do not have an online system available to accept driver's license renewals, the counties may want to revise the bill's effective date to allow for a system to be developed.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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March 15, 2021

The Honorable Senator Chris Lee, Chair
The Honorable Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair
And Members of the Committee on Transportation
The State Senate
State Capitol, Conference Room 224
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Lee and Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee on Transportation:

SUBJECT: H.B.273 H.D.1 – Relating to License Renewals

The City and County of Honolulu, Department of Customer Services (CSD) **supports the intent of this measure and offers comments.**

This bill authorizes the Hawaii State Director of Transportation (HDOT) to enact emergency rules allowing license renewals by mail or online.

Currently, HRS Section §286-107 authorizes the renewal of driver licenses by mail for persons unable to appear in person, and specifies the requirements for doing so. However, it has become increasingly important to allow renewals via online submission not only due to COVID-19 distancing requirements but to manage the large backlog of driver license renewals that have resulted. In addition, online renewals will allow the state and its citizens to take advantage of the convenience of digital technology in driver's license and motor vehicle transactions. This will result in greater cost efficiency in the coming years in processing both driver's license and state IDs.

The same requirements for mail in driver's licenses as set forth in HRS Section §285-107 should be applicable for online renewals.

Furthermore, CSD would also suggest the removal of the word "emergency" from the current proposed amendment. The costs associated with implementation of a new program would be wasted if online license renewals were only available during times of emergency. The proposed revised amendment would read:

"provided that the director may enact rules pursuant to Section 91-3 to provide for license renewals by mail or online."

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on H.B. No. 273, H.D. 1.

Sincerely,

Nola N. Miyasaki
Nola N. Miyasaki
Director

HB-273-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 8:36:31 AM

Testimony for TRS on 3/16/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William R. Higa	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

While I support the intent of this bill, I think license renewal by mail or online should be ABSOLUTE AND IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE. It makes no sense to make this bill take effect so far in the future (2050?) when the counties should have the technical capability to comply now! Also makes no sense for this service to made available only when the administrator declares an emergency. Please amend this bill to reflect these considerations. Mahalo from Hilo!