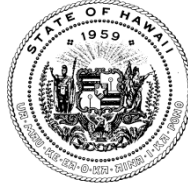


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



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

March 23, 2021
3:00 P.M.
State Capitol, Teleconference

H.B. 458, H. D. 1
RELATING TO DRIVER'S LICENSES

Senate Committee on Transportation

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** H.B. 458, H.D. 1, which extends the renewal period from two years to four years for licensees 72 through 79 years of age.

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 study 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Testimony of

Charles St. Sure
2499 Kapiolani Boulevard
Honolulu, Hawaii 96826

Senator Chris Lee, Chair
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair
Committee on Transportation

Tuesday, March 23, 2021
3:00 pm
Conference Room 224

HB 458 Relating to Driver's Licenses

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

I do not support the inclusion of any age restrictions on the renewal of driver's licenses which I find ageist at best and wonder why the blatant discrimination has yet to be challenged in court. What the statute suggests is that driving skills are based on age – which is ludicrous. If there is a concern that an 80 year-old kupuna's driving may be a threat to the general population, the nexus would be to require them to take a driving test, not just to determine whether they could see or not every two years.

Hawaii, along with Iowa and Rhode Island, are the only states in the U.S. that require 2 year licenses for drivers 72 or older.

Suggested Amendment: Join the vast majority of states and eliminate altogether the elderly period restrictions for our kupuna and ease the congestion at the DMV in the process.

Thank you for your consideration.



HB-458-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2021 6:52:33 PM

Testimony for TRS on 3/23/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Goljuch, Sr.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HB458. Please pass this bill. Thank you.

HB-458-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2021 12:07:09 AM

Testimony for TRS on 3/23/2021 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I continue to support HB458 HD1.

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

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Tuesday, March 23, 2021
3:00pm

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

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.

Support for HB458 – March 22 ,2021

Good afternoon, my name is Rueben Flores, I am resident of Kailua, and I am 76 years young. In early 2020, I renewed my driver's license and was told that it was only good for 2 years.

This is why, I am in support of HB458.

The current legislation requiring individuals over 72 years of age to return every two years is, in my opinion, a unnecessary burden to the lives of many senior citizens like me. Statistics show that the offending population of drivers in Hawaii are not the seniors, but much younger individuals. A Forbes Magazine article dated January 28, 2020, showed a national survey which revealed that the boomer generation was the safest of drivers.

Thanks to cataract surgery, which is prevalent among seniors my age, I no longer wear eyeglasses to drive. My distance vision is better than what I experienced in my fifties and sixties. Are my reflexes slower? Yes, of course, but that makes me a more cautious driver.

As pleasant and professional as the staff may be at a DMV satellite office, by its very nature, is not a pleasant experience for anyone, especially seniors. Taking a number, waiting in long lines is stressful. The current health crisis in our state makes it even more so. I now have to drive to the DMV office in Kaneohe. Several years ago, the office in Enchanted Lakes, in Kailua, was closed.

Let's be more helpful and supportive of Hawaii's Kupuna. Please help pass HB458.



Rueben Flores
454 Paumakua Place
Kailua, HI 96734

LATE

TESTIMONY OF LARRY S VERAY
TO
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION RELATED TO DRIVER'S LICENSES
IN SUPPORT OF HB458 HD1

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.

MARCH 22, 2021

Aloha, Chair Chris Lee, Vice Chair Lorraine Inouye and Transportation Committee members. I am Larry Veray and although I am Chair for the Pearl City Neighborhood Board No.21, I am submitting this testimony as an individual and because I truly care for the 42,000 residents in Pearl City with many who are Kupuna ages 72 and above. I most strongly support HB458 HD1 because it will make a huge positive impact on our senior citizens who continue to be model drivers obeying Hawaii traffic laws.

Many of our senior citizens ages 72 and above have some of the best driving records due to their healthy life styles and because they do follow the State's driving laws. They are model citizens and they should be afforded the same four-year driver's license periods as long as they have no health issues that would impair their driving. Usually, it is the doctor's that advise our senior citizens that they should not be driving due to a specific health issue that would create a safety situation on the roads.

I most strongly support the passing of HB458 HD1 to make a positive impact on our kupuna who will greatly appreciate a four year driver's license until age 80. Mahalo!

Very respectfully,

Larry S. Veray