



TESTIMONY BY:

JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDUARDO P. MANGLALLAN
PATRICK H. MCCAIN
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN

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

January 27, 2022
9:30 A.M.
State Capitol, Teleconference

S.B. 152
RELATING TO CHILD PASSENGER RESTRAINTS

Senate Committee on Judiciary

The Department of Transportation **supports** S.B. 152, which amends requirements for the restraint of child passengers, requires rear facing child safety seats for children less than two years of age, requires the use of child safety seats, booster seats for certain children less than 10 years of age, and raises certain fines for violations.

We support raising of the age for children to remain rear facing, increasing fines, as well as raising the child's age for vehicle operators to ensure that the child is properly restrained in a safety or booster seat. Furthermore, we support the changes that will allow for Federally approved child safety restraints for the children with special needs who are unable to sit in a traditional child safety seat.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, "Infants and toddlers are at greater risk for head and spinal cord injuries if they are in a forward-facing car seat instead of a rear-facing car seat, which provides better support for their head and neck." "All infants and toddlers should ride in a rear-facing car safety seat (CSS) as long as possible, until they reach the highest weight or height allowed by their CSS's manufacturer. Most convertible seats have limits that will permit children to ride rear-facing for 2 years or more."

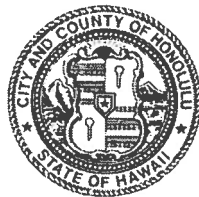
The Hawaii Department of Health reports that 711 children were injured in crashes over the 5-year period of 2016-2020. Of those, 42 percent were under the age of 4 years old.

Currently, 16 states have requirements that children under the age of 2 be rear facing. It is recommended that the State of Hawaii adopt these requirements to reduce motor vehicle fatalities and serious injuries.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET · HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 529-3111 · INTERNET: www.honolulu.org



RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR

RADE K. VANIC
INTERIM CHIEF

OUR REFERENCE **BL-BL**

January 27, 2022

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
and Members
Committee on Judiciary
State Senate
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:

SUBJECT: Senate Bill No. 152, Relating to Child Passenger Restraints

I am Brian Lynch, Major of District 7 (East Honolulu) of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The Honolulu Police Department supports passage of Senate Bill No. 152, Relating to Child Passenger Restraints.

In the United States, motor vehicle injuries are the leading cause of deaths among children. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in addressing child passenger safety, has conducted research that has demonstrated that the use of age and size appropriate child restraints is the best way to save lives and reduce injuries in a crash. Age and size appropriate car seats, booster seats, and seat belts can reduce serious and fatal injuries to children by 80 percent.

The HPD likewise recognizes the critical importance of age and size appropriateness of child restraints and supports these amendments to Hawaii Revised Statutes Section 291-11.5, which revise these guidelines to provide additional protection to child passengers in motor vehicles. It is believed that these revised guidelines, as well as the elimination of previously recognized exceptions, will ultimately save lives by minimizing the risk of death and serious injuries to child passengers of motor vehicles.

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
and Members
January 27, 2022
Page 2

The HPD supports passage of Senate Bill 152, Relating to Child Passenger Restraints.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Brian Lynch, Major
District 7

APPROVED:



Rade Vanic
Interim Chief of Police



Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition

Date: January 23, 2022

TO: Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

FR: Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition

RE: SB 152 - RELATING TO CHILD PASSENGER RESTRAINTS – IN SUPPORT

Amends requirements for restraint of child passengers. Requires rear facing child safety seats for children under two years of age. Repeals exceptions for compliance. Raises certain fines.

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and members of the committee,

The Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition strongly supports SB 152. Injury is one of the leading causes of death and disability in Hawaii for all children, responsible for more deaths of children ages 1-17 than all other causes combined. Automobile safety has been our major focus as traffic related injuries continue to be a leading cause of death and disability for Hawaii's children and youth.

We support requiring children to ride rear facing as long as possible and at least until age two years. The American Academy of Pediatrics guideline is that "infants and toddlers should ride in a rear-facing car safety seat as long as possible, until they reach the highest weight or height allowed by their seat. Most convertible seats have limits that will allow children to ride rear facing for 2 years or more." If enacted, Hawaii will join 16 other states and the District of Columbia in adopting this national standard to protect the most vulnerable motor vehicle passengers.

The rear facing position protects the child's brain and spinal cord, which are the body parts most prone to devastating and permanent injuries in the case of trauma. Infants' and small children's heads are larger and heavier in proportion to their bodies. This can cause significant injury to the neck and spine when crash forces are applied to them. Rear facing car seats spread crash forces over the whole area of a child's back, head, and neck, protecting the spinal cord from snapping and leading to death or permanent severe injury.

We also support increasing fines to reflect the significant risk for injury in violating this law, and support other changes to the statute to ensure that every child is properly restrained in a child restraint, booster seat, or seat belt as appropriate for their age and height.

KIPCC's mission is to prevent and reduce injuries to children in Hawaii. With the help of our members, community partners, and volunteers we have made major strides in improving vehicle occupant protection for children in our state. Child Car Seat Inspection Stations and community events statewide offer hands-on or virtual education free of charge.

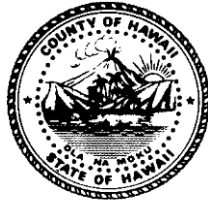
Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Karen Tessier

Karen Tessier

Child Passenger Safety Program Coordinator

Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor



Paul K. Ferreira
Police Chief

Kenneth Bugado Jr.
Deputy Police Chief

County of Hawai'i

POLICE DEPARTMENT

349 Kapi'olani Street • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720-3998
(808) 935-3311 • Fax (808) 961-2389

January 24, 2022

Senator Karl Rhoads
Chairperson and Committee Members
Committee on Judiciary
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: SENATE BILL SB152
HEARING DATE: January 27, 2022
TIME: 09:30 A.M

Dear Senator Karl Rhoads:

The Hawai'i Police Department **supports** Senate Bill 152, which amends requirements for children that are passengers in motor vehicles. This Bill requires rear facing child safety seats for children less than two years of age. It requires child safety seats for children under fours of age with an internal harness and the use of child safety seats or booster seats for children under ten years of age who are less than four feet nine inches in height. These measures all provide greater safety for children traveling in motor vehicles.

Additionally, we strongly support the removal of the exemption for a violation if the number of passengers exceeds the number of restraints a vehicle is equipped with. Every child occupant's safety is of the utmost importance and all of them should be properly restrained.

Senate Bill 152 addresses the educational aspect of an operator who has committed the offense and is required to attend a child passenger restraint system class "approved" by the Judiciary. It is beneficial to allow violators to attend approved classes and not limit to classes conducted by the Judiciary.

It is for these reasons, we urge this committee to approve this legislation. Thank you for allowing the Hawai'i Police Department to provide comments relating to Senate Bill SB152.

Sincerely,

PAUL K. FERREIRA
POLICE CHIEF

SB-152

Submitted on: 1/26/2022 1:19:41 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/27/2022 9:30:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lisa Dau	Testifying for Kapiolani Medical Center	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Lisa Dau, and I am the Injury Prevention Coordinator at Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women and Children and I also represent Safe Kids Hawaii. Kapi'olani is an affiliate of Hawaii Pacific Health and is the Lead Agency for Safe Kids Hawaii.

I write in support of SB 152 which amends the requirements for child passengers and requires rear facing child safety seats for children less than 2 years of age. The bill also requires the use of child safety seats or booster seats for certain children less than 10 years of age.

Kapiolani stands by our testimony which was submitted Feb 18, 2021 with a correction as stated:

Sixteen Jurisdictions Make the Change; Human Face of Car Seat Safety: Since the AAP adopted the new guidelines, **15 states and DC** require children younger than two years old to be in a rear-facing child seat, and a number of other states are considering the change.iii We hope to increase that **number to 16** with the passage of this bill.

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony in SUPPORT of SB152.

Lisa Dau, RN