

TESTIMONY BY:

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

March 16, 2022
10:30 A.M.

State Capitol, Conference Room 423/Teleconference

S.B. 152
RELATING TO CHILD PASSENGER RESTRAINTS

House Committee on Transportation

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** S.B. 152, which amends requirements for the restraint of child passengers, requires rear facing child safety seats for children less than 2 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.

The DOT supports 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.

The DOT respectfully requests to change all references of 'child seats' and 'child safety seat' to 'child passenger restraint system with harness that meets federal motor vehicle safety standards at the time of manufacture.' This will ensure that our law is inclusive of restraints like a car bed or a vest that are used by children with special needs.

The Hawaii Department of Health reports that 711 children were injured in crashes over the 5-year period of 2016-2020. Of those, 42% 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.

SB-152

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 11:34:18 AM

Testimony for TRN on 3/16/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christy Cowser	Hawaii Dept. Of Transportation	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

DOT HWY support staff on SB152.

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR

RADE K. VANIC
INTERIM CHIEF

OUR REFERENCE **BL-BL**

March 16, 2022

The Honorable Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair
and Members
Committee on Transportation
House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 423
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Aquino 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.

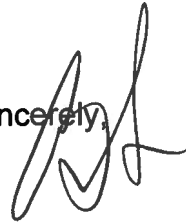
The HPD likewise recognizes the critical importance of age and size appropriateness of child restraints and supports these amendments to Hawaii Revised Statutes Section 291-11.5, which revise these guidelines to provide additional protection to child passengers in motor vehicles. It is believed that 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 Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair
and Members
March 16, 2022
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The HPD supports passage of Senate Bill 152, Relating to Child Passenger Restraints.

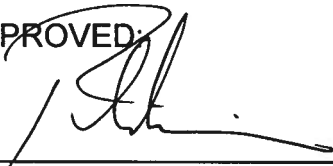
Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Brian Lynch, Major
District 7

APPROVED:



FOR

Rade K. Vanic
Interim Chief of Police



Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition

Date: March 14, 2022

TO: Rep. Henry J. C. Aquino, Chair
Rep. Greggor Ilagan, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Transportation

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 Aquino, Vice Chair Ilagan, and members of the committee,

The Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition (KIPC) strongly supports SB 152, with the following change. We request that **"child safety seat" be replaced with "child passenger restraint system with harness."** This will ensure our law covers children with special health care needs who may require a provider ordered federally approved special needs restraint such as a car bed or vest.

Injury is the leading cause of death and disability for children, responsible for more deaths of those ages 1-17 years than all diseases combined. Motor vehicle safety has been KIPC's major focus as traffic related injuries continue to be a leading cause of death and hospitalization for Hawaii's children and youth.

KIPC'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 and virtual education free of charge.

We support requiring children to ride rear facing as long as possible and at least until age two years. The American Academy of Pediatrics "recommends that all children ride in a rear-facing car safety seat as long as possible, up to the manufacturer's stated weight and length limits. Currently, no manufacturer allows for any child under 12 months to ride forward-facing, and several require all children under 2 years to ride rear-facing." If enacted, Hawaii'i 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 which will lead 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 appropriate for their age and height.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Karen Tessier, PhD, RN, CPSTI
Child Passenger Safety Program Coordinator
Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition

SB-152

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 6:17:49 PM

Testimony for TRN on 3/16/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is just to rip the people off there is no reason for this Except to Steal from the people.

Your time is up!!