

SB 360

RELATING TO MEASUREMENTS.

Requires public signs expressing measurements of speed and distance to be expressed in both the United States customary system of weights and measures and the metric system.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



Testimony of
FORD N. FUCHIGAMI
DIRECTOR

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JADE T. BUTAY
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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

IN REPLY REFER TO:

February 3, 2015
1:45 pm
State Capitol, Room 414

**S.B. 360
RELATING TO MEASUREMENTS**

Senate Committee on Government Operations

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **opposes** S.B. 360 to require traffic signs displaying distances and speeds to be expressed in both the United States customary system and the metric system for the following reasons:

1. Displaying two distances or speed limits at the same time can be misinterpreted by roadway users. Misinterpretation of distances and/or speeds to decision points or changes in roadway condition (e.g., freeway off-ramps, crosswalks, curves, etc.) could lead to an increase in accidents caused by last minute lane changes, unintentional speeding, and vehicles slowing down or stopping.
2. The DOT uses the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) for the design and installation of signs. The MUTCD is a nationally recognized standard developed by the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highways Administration and is adopted by the State of Hawaii for traffic control devices on public roads. The standardized sizes and shapes (i.e., speed limit and warning signs) in the MUTCD are not designed to fit two different types of measurements and installing two signs to display each measurement system is not practical.
3. The increase in size of the signs or number of signs may make it difficult or not possible to install due to limited space on our roadways. Also, existing overhead sign structures will not be able to accommodate larger guide signs because of new higher wind loading standards.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii
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SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

FEBRUARY 3, 2015
1:15 P.M.
ROOM 414

SENATE BILL NO. 360
RELATING TO MEASUREMENTS

Chairperson Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 360, relating to measurements. This bill proposes to require that when a sign representing all measurements of distance or speed is replaced, a state or county agency express the distance or speed in both United States customary system of weights and measures and the metric system of measurement in the same font size. The Department has concerns with the bill but would defer to the Department of Transportation.

The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, or MUTCD defines the standards used by road managers nationwide to install and maintain traffic control devices on all public streets, highways, bikeways, and private roads open to public travel. The MUTCD is published by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) under 23 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 655, Subpart F. On December 16, 2009, a final rule adopting the 2009 Edition of the MUTCD was published in the Federal Register with an effective date of January 15, 2010, requires that states must adopt the 2009 National MUTCD as their legal State standard for traffic control devices within two years from the effective date.



Testimony of Scott E. Enright
Senate Bill No. 360
February 3, 2015

In addition, Public Law 104-59-NOV. 28, 1995 (National Highway System Act of 1995) relieved mandates that required States to expend Federal or State funds to construct, erect, otherwise place or modify any sign relating to speed limit, distance or other measurement on a highway to use the metric system.

Although the United States customary system of weights and measures and the metric system of measurement are jointly recognized, speed and distance signs are generally represented in the United States in customary system units. In addition, many U.S. manufactured vehicles have odometers and speedometers that only measure in miles (U.S. units of measure). Hawaii's highways have signage with a minimum and maximum speed in U.S. measurement. If metric measurements must also be shown in the font size, there will be four different units of speed measurements on the sign. Requiring signs to represent both systems of measurement in the same font size has the potential to cause public confusion.

We respectfully defer to the Department of Transportation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

CENTERSCALE

AUTOMATION HAWAII, INC.

January 30, 2015

The Honorable Senator Donovan Dela Cruz
Chair, Committee on Government Operations
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 202
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu HI 96813

Re: SB 360 Relating to Measurements – Oppose

Dear Senator Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee,

I respectfully submit my **opposition** to SB 360 regarding utilization of the metric system as the predominant means of measurement in Hawaii. This bill although referring to speed signage is the beginning of metrication.

As a weighing equipment provider in the state of Hawaii, I am fully aware that All commerce is traded by weight and measurement. These include but are not limited to retail grocery operations, construction manufacturing, quarry operations, truck scales, food processing and manufacturing, freight and transportation, livestock and agricultural operations, and many medical providers. Nearly 98% of all companies in the state of Hawaii utilize the US Customary System of measurement.

The economic conditions of doing business in Hawaii are not conducive to taking the additional costs that are associated with metrication and the economic impact associated with metrication is far greater than meets the eye. For retailers, the cost will be in software components, relabeling and upgrades, in the construction industry, metrication would change their entire measurement base. This change would require new guidelines, codes, standards, drawings, specifications, and publishing of associated documents. Many farmers still utilize mechanical weighing equipment which would require post process conversion which are time consuming or purchase of upgraded equipment which incur new equipment costs to our agricultural farming community.

Please also note that the State of Hawaii Quality Assurance Division, Measurement Standards Branch does NOT have the equipment (metric test weights) nor manpower (they currently have two inspectors in Oahu) to regulate and/or enforce higher capacity metric weighing equipment (truck scales, floor scales, etc) at this time.

Once again, I respectfully submit my testimony in OPPOSITION of SB360 and I humbly ask for you're your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Miyuki Hirano-Hollingworth

Miyuki Hirano-Hollingworth
Centerscale Automation Hawaii Inc.
2632 Kilihau Street Unit A

SB360 metric system.txt

SB360

Submitted on: 1/29/2015

Testimony for GVO on Feb 3, 2015 13:45PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kenneth R. Conklin, Ph.D.		Individual	Oppose No

Re SB360

To GVO, WAM

For hearing Tuesday, February 03, 2015

Testimony in opposition

by Kenneth R. Conklin, Ph.D.

Ken_Conklin@yahoo.com

60 years ago, as a student in junior high school in Illinois, I remember that in science class we were required to learn the metric system because, we were told, America would soon be converting to it.

50 years ago, when I was doing practice-teaching in Mathematics in junior high school in Illinois, I remember that I was required to teach the metric system because, the curriculum guide said, America would soon be converting to it.

40 years ago, when I was a professor of teacher education in Boston, I remember that I was expected to teach school teachers the metric system because, according to articles in the professional journals, America would soon be converting to it.

30 years ago, when I taught some high school Mathematics classes, I remember that I was required to teach the metric system because, the curriculum guide said, America would soon be converting to it.

Throughout all those years I remember seeing occasional news reports about people holding signs by the roadside, or sitting on rooftops, proclaiming "Repent! The end is near! Jesus is returning."

But the world keeps spinning, Jesus has not returned, and the U.S. still uses inches, pounds, and miles per hour as everyday units of measure. Doesn't the legislature have better things to do than to force awareness of the metric system upon our people? Folks, it ain't gonna happen.