

**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

February 8, 2022  
3:15 P.M.  
State Capitol, Teleconference

**S.B. 2679**  
**RELATING TO DRIVER'S LICENSES**

Senate Committees on Government Operations and Transportation

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The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** S.B. 2679 but recommends a change. The purpose of the bill is to extend the renewal period from 2 years to 4 years for licensees 70 through 79 years of age. Drivers aged 80 and over will be required to renew every 2 years. This bill also requires drivers aged 70 years old or older to present certification of physical and mental competence from a doctor.

We recommend not requiring drivers aged 70 years old or older to present certification of physical and mental competence from a doctor (Sections 2 and 3 of the bill) because it is unnecessary, as many 70 year olds are quite fit physically and capable of doing a wide range of activities including driving. If a statement of mental competence is required, it should have guidelines.

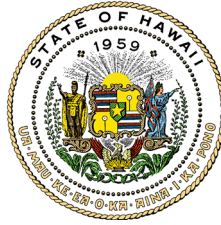
The DOT has not found local data to indicate drivers 70 years or older are at higher risk of causing or being involved in crashes. Also, based on a review of an American Automobile Association study, which included information on age-based license renewals from 51 jurisdictions, only 21 of the United States jurisdictions polled have a shorter renewal cycle based on the age of the driver. Those age-based policies were generally longer than 4 years.

The 2 most widely used mental competence tools being used are the Mini-Mental State Examination, which has been copyrighted for many years, and the more recent Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA) Test for Dementia. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration data shows a correlation between MoCA score and performance on the driver's road test, but it is not a perfect correlation as mild cognitive impairment is complex and involves many factors. Both tests cost money to use, so a requirement for mental competence certification for all drivers that are age 70 and over may put an unnecessary financial burden on most of those drivers. The current approach of relying on self-disclosure and observations by licensing clerks seems to be the most reasonable. Applicants of concern can be referred to Hawaii's Medical Advisory Board for review.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

ELIZABETH A. CHAR, M.D.  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH



CAROLINE CADIRAO  
DIRECTOR

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**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING**  
NO. 1 CAPITOL DISTRICT  
250 SOUTH HOTEL STREET, SUITE 406  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2831

**Testimony COMMENTING on SB2679**  
**Relating to Driver's Licenses**

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS  
SENATOR SHARON Y. MORIWAKI, CHAIR  
SENATOR DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, VICE CHAIR

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
SENATOR CHRIS LEE, CHAIR  
SENATOR LORRAINE R. INOUE, VICE CHAIR

Testimony of Caroline Cadirao  
Director, Executive Office on Aging  
Attached Agency to the Department of Health

Hearing Date: February 8, 2022  
3:15 PM

Via Videoconference

1 **EOA's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department  
2 of Health, supports the intent of SB2679, Relating to Driver's Licenses, and provides comments.

3 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of this measure is to extend the driver's license renewal  
4 period from two years to four years for licensees who are seventy years of age or older but  
5 younger than eighty years of age. The bill requires applicants for new driver's license or renewal  
6 license who are seventy years of age or older to present certification of physical and mental  
7 competence from a doctor upon application.

8 COVID has shown the importance of the health and safety of staff and customers in public  
9 spaces. This extension for licensees, seventy years of age or older but younger than eighty years  
10 of age, minimizes in-person visits for older adults to the Motor Vehicle Department offices and  
11 helps reduce the spread of COVID-19. In Section 2, item (b) includes the added provision of

1 requiring new driver's license or renewal applicants, who are seventy years of age or older, to  
2 provide a doctor's certificate of physical and mental competence can help to eliminate any  
3 concerns regarding their ability to drive safely without any visual, hearing, or mental  
4 impairments.

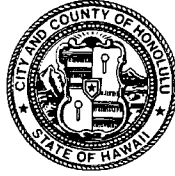
5 **Recommendation:** The EOA supports the intent of increasing the renewal period from two to  
6 four years. As for the provision requiring physical and mental competence from a doctor, we  
7 recommend that this section be amended to delete the age requirement and add language that  
8 provides compelling reasons as to why this information is being requested and that it should be  
9 on a case-by-case basis.

10 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICES  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**  
MISSION MEMORIAL BUILDING  
550 SOUTH KING STREET, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-3391 FAX: (808) 768-1591  
<http://www.honolulu.gov>

**LATE**

RICK BLANGIARDI  
MAYOR



KIMBERLY M. HASHIRO  
ACTING DIRECTOR

February 7, 2022

The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair  
The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair  
And Members of the Committee on Transportation  
The Honorable Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
And Members of the Committee on Government Operations  
The State Senate  
State Capitol, Conference Room 216  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Chris Lee, Chair Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair Lorraine Inouye, Vice Chair  
Donovan M. Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committees on Transportation and Government  
Operations

SUBJECT: S.B. 2679 – Relating to Driver's Licenses

The City and County of Honolulu, Department of Customer Services (CSD), Motor  
Vehicles, Licensing and Permitting Division, strongly supports S.B. 2679 Relating to Driver's  
Licenses which would extend the renewal period from two years to four years for licensees who  
are seventy years of age or older but less than eighty years of age.

CSD handles all requests and inquiries for new and renewals of driver licenses as well  
as state identification cards for the island of Oahu. We are committed to upholding high  
standards of service to our communities. As health care for our kupuna drivers improves, so  
does their ability to monitor and evaluate their abilities. A Certificate of Physical and Mental  
Competence from a physician would be required to qualify for a new driver license or a driver  
license renewal from any applicant who is seventy two years of age or older, and provide  
sufficient oversight for safe administration of driver license renewals.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on S.B. No. 2679.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kimberly M. Hashiro".

Kimberly M. Hashiro  
Acting Director



1001 Bishop Street | Suite 625 | Honolulu, HI 96813-2830  
1-866-295-7282 | Fax: 808-536-2882  
aarp.org/hi | [aarphi@aarp.org](mailto:aarphi@aarp.org) | [twitter.com/AARPHawaii](https://twitter.com/AARPHawaii)  
[facebook.com/AARPHawaii](https://facebook.com/AARPHawaii)

**The State Legislature  
The Senate  
Committee on Government Operations  
Committee on Transportation  
Tuesday, February 8, 2021  
3:15 p.m.**

TO: The Honorable Sharon Moriwaki, Chair  
The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair

RE: S.B. 2679 Relating to Drivers' License

Aloha Chairs Moriwaki and Lee and Members of the Committees:

My name is Keali'i Lopez and I am the State Director for AARP Hawai'i. AARP is a nonpartisan, social mission organization that advocates for individuals age 50 and older. We have a membership of nearly 38 million nationwide and over 140,000 in Hawai'i.

AARP Hawai'i appreciates and supports the intent of this measure to extend the renewal period for older drivers from two to four years. However, we have concerns about the additional provision requiring a medical certification for all people 70 years and older as noted in SECTION 2. Section 286-107 (b): "provided that an applicant who is seventy years of age or older shall also present certification of physical and mental competence from a doctor". We respectfully recommend that this provision be amended since it appears to be based on age, and not on medical concerns which may impact a driver's ability to safely drive. A similar provision is also included in SECTION 3. Section 286-108 (e). Decisions about driving should be made on a case-by-case basis and not based on chronological age.

The current driver license requirements in the City and County of Honolulu as an example, do not include any medical clearance except for an eye screening; and the only time a medical clearance is warranted is if the examiner of drivers has good cause to believe that a person would not be able to operate a motor vehicle safely upon the highways by reason of physical or mental disability. According to the City, *"Unless a person has a medical condition, which may affect his/her fitness to drive safely, only then is the person required to submit the State of Hawaii, Dept of Transportation Medical Report form (available at the satellite city halls). This form is completed by the driver applicant's doctor for review by the Medical Advisory Board (MAB). The MAB will determine the fitness to operate a motor vehicle safely."*

[https://www.honolulu.gov/cms-csd-menu/site-csd-sitearticles/679-faqs-about-driver-s-license.html#info\\_medreqs](https://www.honolulu.gov/cms-csd-menu/site-csd-sitearticles/679-faqs-about-driver-s-license.html#info_medreqs)).

State and local governments, in partnership with the medical community as needed, should ensure that all drivers, regardless of age, meet the minimum physical and cognitive requirements to safely operate a vehicle. Renewal policies should be evidence-based and as such, should include regular in-person renewal for all ages. Driving ability varies greatly at any given age. It is more appropriate to assess all drivers' ability to be safe on the road rather than specifically targeting older drivers. .

We appreciate the legislature's consideration regarding the medical certification requirement and welcome further dialogue as the bill moves forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.B. 2679.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keali'i Lopez". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'K'.

Keali'i Lopez, AARP Hawai'i  
State Director

**SB-2679**

Submitted on: 2/4/2022 2:31:01 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/8/2022 3:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Mike Golojuch, Sr.	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

I agree with the language in SB2679 to allow those in their seventies to be able to renew their driver's license every four years. I disagree that people in their seventies or older need a doctor's note to say that they are physically and mentally competent. If the latter is included, it should be for all people who are eligible to obtain a driver's license. I can think of plenty of people under the age of seventy that probably wouldn't pass the mental portion.

Mike Golojuch, Sr., Lt Col, USAF(Ret)

**SB-2679**

Submitted on: 2/4/2022 11:47:54 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/8/2022 3:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Karen Tessier	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

I support extending the renewal period from two years to four years for licensees who are seventy years of age or older but younger than eighty years of age.

I propose raising the age to require applicants for a new license or for license renewal to present certification of physical and mental competence from a doctor from seventy years of age to eighty-five years of age or older. Most people in their seventies and early eighties these days are active and engaged, and many are still employed. This seems like age discrimination.



**SB-2679**

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 11:59:49 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/8/2022 3:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Ryden Iwamoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Lee and Chair Moriwaki:

Thank you for hearing this bill. My grandfather, aged 73, is one of the best drivers I know—a far better driver than my father, mother, and myself. When I was younger, he would always take me around whenever I needed a ride, and when the time came, I learned how to drive by watching him. He is also a very busy man, caring for several grandchildren (of which I am one) and doing the same for them as he did for me. He also cares for several dogs, does housework, and does other miscellaneous tasks. The last time he renewed his driver's license, the process took nearly the whole morning, from the point of waiting in the queue to processing the renewal at the desk. As is evident, finding time to renew his driver's license is a very time-consuming ordeal that takes his attention away from the things that really matter.

I am confident my grandfather is merely one example of the inconveniences seniors face when renewing their driver's license every two years. I encourage the committee to adopt this measure so that it may realize its true potential as an act in this legislative session.

Thank you for your consideration.

**SB-2679**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 6:51:46 AM

Testimony for TRS on 2/8/2022 3:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support with amendment to retain current provisions, but permit four year license with doctor's certificate. Some elders might not be able to afford the costs of a doctor's certificate.

**SB-2679**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 11:46:15 AM

Testimony for TRS on 2/8/2022 3:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Donald Hurzeler	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Rules and regulations need to be fact based...not based on prejudice. I want to know what facts you will be using to evaluate this bill. I believe that the facts will show that the youngest drivers are the most dangerous drivers and should be treated with the most restrictions. You may find valid state and national statistics on older drivers, but I have not seen them lately. Last time I looked, the older drivers drove less and drove slower...mitigating the effects of aging to some extent. If you start making rules based on age without solid, current facts...you are just plain discriminating due to age. Show your work please. And, by the way, I do support restrictions at some advanced age...but let's make sure that age is not just pulled out of the air...base it on facts and statistics. Thank you.

Testimony in Support of S.B. 2679

Before the  
Senate Committee on Transportation  
Senate Committee on Government Operations

Tuesday, February 8, 2022  
3:15 pm  
Via Videoconference



My name is Gayle Harimoto and I am submitting testimony in support of Bill S.B. 2679. The change in drivers licensing requirements to every two years for drivers 72 years of age and older was apparently prompted by the perception that older drivers are involved in more accidents and perhaps also that the two year requirement would encourage some to give up driving. What do the statistics really show? Probably more scrapes and dings in parking lots, but not big time accidents resulting from speeding. Seniors tend to drive slow, and if you think reducing the requirement to two years will result in seniors giving up their drivers licenses, you are mistaken. Driving provides them with independence, and giving it up will make them age faster. My father is 94 years young and still drives. However, we discourage him from driving long distances. Short trips in our neighborhood for grocery shopping or appointments are okay, His car has no scrapes or dings, and he does not drive fast.

The two year requirement did not include any checks on a person's ability to operate a vehicle, which really is difficult to ascertain. Taking any kind of cognitive test will not tell you how a person will react to situations behind the wheel of a car. Many seniors give up driving when they recognize they are not sharp as they used to be, not because they have to relicense every two years. Also, many children step in to stop their parents from driving. The two year requirement merely burdens us with having to go through the process too often. In addition, the requirement presents the City's relicensing division with a huge increase in workload since the baby boomer population is so large. It also requires an increase in labor and materials costs since the staff must now process a new license for me four times rather than once for a span of eight years.

I very much support a change to four years with certification of physical and mental capability by a doctor. Anything is better than having to do it every two years.

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony.

**LATE**

Can't the Time span be every 5 years ? I have 'Longevity' in my Family. My Aunt Olga died at 104 and both my Parent's died at age 100 in a Nursing home of Covid in 2020. They would still be alive today if my brother didn't issue an 'Advance Directive' from R.I. Hospital which put them into the Nursing home. 20 other People 'Supposedly' died of Covid there too.

Are the Stipulations the same for Younger People or is this another way to 'Legally Abuse' the 'Elderly' again ?

Please note that I teach Tae Kwon Do 3 Times a week and will be 'Sparring' today with several Students(ages 10-17. I can still do 100 Push-ups and keep up with the Kids. For the most part most of them still can't keep up with me at age 76.

My Co. is 'Tax Compliant' with the State of Hawaii and is one of the State's Vendors.