



COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, February 9, 2009

H.B. 1003

Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee, my name is Linda Chu Takayama, and I am the Chair of the Hawaii Foodbank. The Foodbank serves 131,862 different individuals every year, distributing nearly 9 million pounds through 250 charitable agencies, including feeding programs for children and the elderly, homeless and abuse shelters, rehabilitation centers and soup kitchens.

By prohibiting the donation of goods or money from roadways, this bill would abolish the Foodbank's annual Food Drive. On Food Drive day in April, more than 3,000 volunteers accept donations from motorists statewide at 8 locations on Oahu, plus various military bases and sites on the Neighbor Islands. This event caps a 4-month effort that results in a collection of 550,000 pounds of food and \$450,000.

The food collected from the drive is of the best quality we have in our warehouse. We distribute it through our member agencies throughout the year. The monies collected are used to buy food in bulk and fund operations.

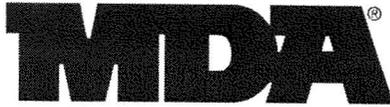
Except for a modest amount from the state Office of Community Services, which we use to pay for shipping food to the neighbor island foodbanks, the Hawaii Foodbank does not request nor receive any other state funds.

This organization is a prime example of the community coming together to take care of its own. We are almost entirely supported by the individuals and businesses in the community. Programs (food collection and distribution) account for 95% of all our spending. Administration and fundraising expenses account for only 5%.

This bill would ban our annual food drive efforts. Our operations would be severely impacted if we were unable to conduct our activities in the community on food drive day. We respectfully request that this bill be held.

Thank you for your consideration

Linda Chu Takayama
(808) 545-3060



Fighting Neuromuscular Diseases

The first nonprofit organization honored with the American Medical Association's *Lifetime Achievement Award* "for significant and lasting contributions to the health and welfare of humanity."

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The Twenty-Fifth Legislature
House of Representatives
Committees on Transportation

Testimony By:
Audrey Hirayama, District Director
Muscular Dystrophy Association Hawaii Chapter

February 9, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.
H.B. No. 1003 Relating to Highway Safety

On behalf of the individuals and families served throughout Hawaii, the Muscular Dystrophy Association Hawaii Chapter opposes H.B. No. 1003.

Since 1954, the International Association of Fire Fighters has played an instrumental role in the coordination and implementation of the Fill-the-Boot fundraising campaign raising millions of dollars to benefit those living with neuromuscular diseases.

Locally, the men and women of the Hawaii Fire Fighters Association have made significant contributions in raising much-needed funds for services provided throughout the Hawaiian Islands. The fire fighters raise anywhere from \$50,000 to \$70,000 annually over the course of Labor Day weekend. These funds help to provide crucial services at NO cost to those registered with MDA. The services include: initial diagnostic and follow up care by the MDA clinic (administered by Castle Medical Center), monthly support groups, educational material, professional seminars, supplemental funding for medical equipment, a summer camp program and research.

The Fill-the-Boot program involves trained fire fighters who know and understand public safety, soliciting donations from motorists as they are stopped at intersections in downtown, Kaneohe and Pearl City. The Association abides by the procedures involved in getting proper authorization from the State Department of Transportation for state highways as well as the City and County for city streets. Prior to these fundraising events, the Association obtains permits for street and highway usage as well as provides certificates of insurance for both the city and state.

I understand the concerns and assure the current rules are and will continue to be followed. This proposed prohibition will eliminate the loss of income generated by the fire fighters. I appreciate your consideration and would like to work with you on this matter.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Audrey Hirayama". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a horizontal line.

Audrey Hirayama
District Director

Muscular Dystrophy Association
JERRY LEWIS, National Chairman

Dedicated to the eradication of the muscular dystrophies, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (Lou Gehrig's disease), myasthenia gravis, the spinal muscular atrophies, Friedreich's ataxia and a host of other neuromuscular diseases.

Rep. Joseph M. Souki, Chair
Rep. Karen Leinani Awana, Vice Chair
Committee on Transportation

Monday, February 9, 2009, 9:00 a.m., Room 309

Support of HB 1003, Relating to Highway Safety

As a Hawaii resident and frequent traveler on City and State roads, **I highly support HB 1003, Relating to Highway Safety, which would prohibit pedestrians from walking in or on a highway or its right-of-way for the purpose of soliciting for sale or selling anything or for soliciting or accepting donations of any kinds.**

It is unfortunate that the longstanding practice of selling newspapers at street corners has been adopted as the means to ask for money and is being done in a way that is unsafe for pedestrians, impedes traffic safety, and teaches children a very poor lesson.

I am less concerned about the panhandlers who are begging for a handout. Except for a few instances, my experience has been that they tend to remain and on the median and don't bother the drivers. I am **most** concerned about the children and teenagers that I see on a regular basis on Kamehameha Highway by the Costco/Home Depot intersection (Pearl City) on Saturdays, on Ala Moana Blvd. near Restaurant Row during fundraisers, and occasionally on other State owned roadways.

- **There is danger for children and teenagers:** The children and teenagers appear to be unsupervised by adults. They are sometimes running on tiny strips of median between lanes of traffic that are full of cars. Worse, they run in between the cars and lanes, sometimes after the traffic light has changed to allow cars to proceed. Even when they are with a parent, it is unsafe for a parent and child to be on the median for no other purpose than to solicit.
- **There is more traffic and traffic hazards:** Drivers, like me, are nervously watching the children to make sure they don't fall from the median into the driving lane while also watching for the children who are running between lanes. As a result, we are less attentive to the other cars and traffic signals around us – creating traffic hazards and slowing the normal pace of traffic.
- **What is the message that these children and teenagers are learning:** I am sure there are very good intentions by the organizations, clubs, etc. that are trying to raise funds this way. However, I do not feel that allowing children to beg for money from strangers at street corners is teaching them a constructive way of earning money.

I work for a nonprofit organization and certainly understand the need for fundraising. I support as many fundraising activities as I can but this is one form of fundraising I simply refuse to support as I feel there is **no reason** that children and teenagers should be put at risk on our roads, which are often already congested, simply because it may appear to be an easy, fun and visible way to raise funds.

Please support HB1003. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Diane Terada