



## HAWAII FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS LOCAL 1463, AFL-CIO  
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# LATE TESTIMONY

The Twenty-Fifth Legislature  
House of Representatives  
Committees on Transportation  
February 9, 2009

Testimony by  
Hawaii Fire Fighters Association

### **H.B. No. 1003      Relating to Highway Safety**

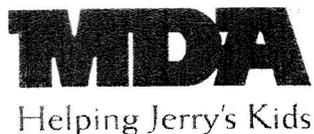
My name is Robert H. Lee and I am the President of the Hawaii Fire Fighters Association, Local 1463, IAFF, AFL-CIO. On behalf of the 1,800 active and 800 retired professional fire fighters throughout the State, the Hawaii Fire Fighters Association opposes H.B. No. 1003.

Since 1994, the Hawaii Fire Fighters Association has sponsored the "Fill the Boot" events for Jerry's Kids. Over the 15 years, hundreds of HFFA members have hit the streets to collect donations for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. With the coordination of the MDA Hawaii Staff, permits are secured and all members are instructed as to the conditions of the permits.

In 1954, the International Association of Fire Fighters selected MDA as its charity of choice. Today, the IAFF represents more than 280,000 professional fire and emergency personnel across the nation and Canada and hundreds of locals like HFFA conduct "Fill the Boot" events. As a result of these events, the IAFF is the single largest sponsor of MDA and has contributing more than \$27,530,000 to MDA in 2008. Since 1954, more than \$300 million has been raised by IAFF members for MDA. In Hawaii, HFFA members have collected hundreds of thousands of dollars which provide direct client services and equipment for the residents in Hawaii who have neuromuscular diseases.

HFFA certainly appreciates the concerns of the legislature and community but believe that the current rules with regard these types of activities are in place.

This proposed prohibition would eliminate our member's efforts to help MDA. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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## LATE TESTIMONY

February 6, 2009

Honorable Senator Sylvia Luke  
26th Representative District  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 332  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Luke,

I'm writing in testimony of support of MDA's Fill-the-Boot program. Since 1954, a mainstay of MDA's annual fundraising campaign has been the Fill-the-Boot program conducted by fire fighters nationwide. Professional and volunteer fire fighters throughout the nation - - including the state of Hawaii - - last year alone raised nearly \$27 million dollars for MDA through this important program.

The basis of this program involves fire fighters who are trained public safety officers, soliciting donations from motorists as they are stopped at controlled intersections in cities and rural areas alike. Fire fighters are MDA's largest national sponsor and have been an essential member of the MDA "family" for 55 years. Endurance of the relationship and the success of the Fill-the-Boot program are a testament to the character of fire fighters, and the respect they elicit from the citizens they serve in communities across America.

As I'm sure you realize, an organization like MDA is able to survive only by virtue of the help it receives from philanthropically minded individuals and organizations. It's worth noting that we receive no funds whatsoever from the United Way. Neither do we receive funds from the US government - - we've never sought to add to the public tax burden by doing that. Instead, we've gone directly to the American people to express the tragedy of the 40 neuromuscular diseases our program encompasses and asks for help. America's fire fighters play an indispensable roll in helping us achieve that help.

The public has over the years, responded generously to fire fighters' appeal on our behalf to the Fill-the-Boot program. This has been accomplished in large part through the assistance of community minded legislators like yourself, who've chosen to regulate on-street collection activities with legislation that enforces parameters that both ensure safety and that the donor/motorist contribution will

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go to a worthy bona fide cause they'll feel good about supporting - - one that benefits their friends and neighbors in their community. When conducted with appropriate safety precautions in place, Fill-the-Boot has proven extremely safe and well received by local communities. In fact, many donors view this type of activity as a convenient means of giving specifically to a cause about which they care. Frankly, eliminating this collection mechanism will severely hinder the good work being done by many organizations, like MDA.

I appreciate your consideration in this matter and invite your willingness to work with MDA and fire fighters in crafting legislation that will both accomplish the goals of the state and local communities as well as continue this American fundraising tradition that contributes vital services to so many in the state of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Boyle', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Tom Boyle  
Director of Program Development  
Muscular Dystrophy Association, Inc.  
National Headquarters

TB:jt

## LATE TESTIMONY

TO: Chair, TRN Committee, The Honorable Joe Souki

FROM: American Red Cross, Hawaii State Chapter  
Betty Mastrantonio, Development Director  
4155 Diamond Head Road, Honolulu, HI 96816  
808-739-8108  
mastrantonio@hawaiiredcross.org

RE: HB1003 – Highway Safety Hearing on 2/9/09 at 9 a.m.  
Authored by Representative S. Luke

We wish to submit testimony in opposition to HB1003 which looks to prohibit pedestrians from selling or soliciting while on a highway. While the intent may be to further protect Hawaii's citizens the result may actually hamper worthwhile efforts to support needed services in the community.

The Red Cross, though a government mandated agency, is not funded by the federal government. Therefore we must utilize all resources available to continue servicing the community. In these difficult and challenging economic times non profits are hard pressed to use various resources to continue financing their mission and operations. Each year several non profits have applied for permits from the State Highway Division for specific sites on specific days in order to reach out to the public and ask for support from all citizens. The permits are issued on condition of proper safety procedures and are for specific purposes. Each organization depends on the generosity of the community and these special appeals offer an opportunity to build awareness and to make it easy and effortless to support these worthy causes.

Trying to sell or solicit on a busy 3 or 4 lane highway with cars moving at 45 mph and more would not be the ideal (or typical) location for these efforts, and permits most certainly would not be forthcoming. However please consider that particular areas on our Island, though designated as "highways", are often 2 lane roads with stop signs and stop lights (very similar to surface streets). In these designated areas it would not seem to create a hazard when proper procedures are followed.

Any non profit trying to fundraise and build awareness on streets and byways will want to be easily accessible to the public and will look to choose areas where they will be visible and easily accessible. They will also always look to the safety of their staff and volunteers who will be working during these appeals. Working together with the State Highway Division and the police department the organizations can put together a strategy and a location that will maximize a good experience and a good return.

We respectfully request that the Committee reconsider the bill's intent. There may not be a need for this further restriction since a permit process is already required for this type of activity. Non profits are working together with the government in the existing structure and process to protect the public; and so the non profits benefit and the community benefits by supporting these desperately needed services in these economically challenging times. Please do not put further restraints on our ability to work in the community.