

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



CHIYOME LEINAALA FUKINO, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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In reply, please refer to:
File:

House Committee on Transportation

HB 1275, RELATING TO HIGHWAY SAFETY

Testimony of Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.
Director of Health

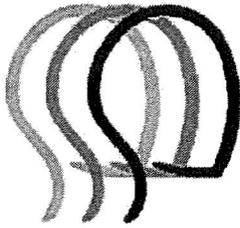
February 18, 2009

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health opposes this measure because the use of the
2 Neurotrauma Special Fund for purchase and training in the use of photogrammetric traffic accident
3 investigation technology is not an allowable expense under Chapter 321-4 HRS, Neurotrauma Special
4 Fund.

5 **Fiscal Implications:** Use of the Neurotrauma Special Fund for photogrammetric traffic accident
6 investigation technology would negatively impact the services allowed under Chapter 321-4 HRS.

7 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of this bill is to appropriate funds to the counties from the
8 Neurotrauma Special Fund for purchase and training in the use of photogrammetric traffic accident
9 investigation technology. Although the Department of Health recognizes the need for, and benefit of
10 photogrammetric equipment to improve traffic investigations statewide, the responsibility for purchasing
11 equipment of this nature, and training in the use of this equipment, should rest with the respective
12 counties. The Neurotrauma Special Fund must be used for: 1) Education on neurotrauma; 2)
13 Assistance to individuals and families to identify and obtain access to services; 3) Creation of a registry
14 of neurotrauma injuries within the State to identify incidence, prevalence, individual needs, and related

- 1 information; and 4) Necessary administrative expenses to carry out this chapter not to exceed two per
- 2 cent of the total amount collected.
- 3 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

420 Kuwili St., Ste. 103 * Honolulu, HI 96792 * Tel. 808-791-6942 * Email: biahi@hawaiiantel.net

RE: Oppose HB 1275 Relating to Highway Safety

Dear Chair Joseph M. Souki; Vice-Chair Karen Leinani Awana; and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Brain Injury Association of Hawai'i, an affiliate of the Brain Injury Association of America, and our support groups across the State of Hawai'i, I am writing to oppose HB 1275, Relating to Highway Safety.

The Brain Injury Association is an advocacy group committed to those persons and their families who have been affected by a brain injury. We supported the Bill for the Neurotrauma Special Fund established in 2002 by Act 160 for service related to neurotrauma. Since this time, the fund has been instrumental in creating educational resources and supports, thus improving the lives of persons with neurotrauma in the State of Hawai'i.

Although we are very much in support of safety as a means of prevention for brain injury, the intention of the Neurotrauma Special Fund is for those already impacted by brain injury, spinal cord injury, and stroke. The funding resources for these individuals and their families is so limited, it would be a huge disservice to use these funds for anything other than the intention as a means of support services.

I urge you to consider the needs of the individuals living every day with neurotrauma and not take favorable action on this bill. Thank you.

Respectfully,

IAN L. MATTOCH
President

February 17, 2009

**The Honorable Joseph M. Souki
Committee on Transportation
The House of Representatives
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813**

Dear Chair Souki and Members:

Subject: HOUSE BILL 1275, RELATING TO HIGHWAY SAFETY

In Hawaii, a highway closure due to traffic serious or fatal crashes is a serious problem due to limited alternative routes, or in some cases, no other road to reroute traffic. The purpose of House Bill 1275 is to reduce the time required to investigate a fatal or near-fatal crash by using technology such as photogrammetry. Although not a new technology, recent improvements in digital cameras and mapping software has made this method of measuring crash and crime scenes quicker and more user friendly.

Most police departments in Hawaii currently utilize the laser transit and a data collector to record measurements. This method has dramatically shortened the amount of time required to measure a scene and allows the scene to be opened incrementally, allowing more lanes of travel to be opened after measurements are taken. This method requires the use of an expensive piece of equipment. Since there are a limited number of laser transits available, investigators must wait for this instrument to be brought to the scene, whereas digital cameras are affordable and can be carried by each investigator.

Photogrammetry, using consumer grade digital cameras, can further reduce the amount of time required to be on-scene by approximately fifty percent and can also complement the current laser transit technology being used. Data obtained from one system can be overlaid over another to complete a collision diagram.

I fully support this bill that would provide software and training that would reduce the time required to investigate a serious crash, and still provide the degree of accuracy to be able to present a solid case in court. Photogrammetry has been adopted by twelve state police agencies, including Nevada, Florida and New Hampshire, as well as over sixty local police agencies on the mainland that also face issues with extended road closures and its impact on motorists and commerce.

Very truly yours,

CHARLES M. HIRATA