



WAIKIKI NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 9

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February 17, 2009

House of Representatives
Committee on Transportation
The Honorable Joseph M. Souki, Chair

Subject: Testimony in support of HB1303

Aloha Representative Souki and Committee Members,

On February 10, 2009 the Waikiki Neighborhood Board Voted in support of HB1303 and related SB720.

Waikiki residents have long asked for this type of legislation and hopefully this will be the year our delivery trucks, garbage trucks, tour busses and other vehicles will be able to use alternative safety procedures instead of back up beepers after 10:00PM.

Residents are aware that living in Waikiki is a mixture of blessings and curses. We require no transportation to go to the Kalakaua Street events and visit the attractions that our visitors spend thousands of dollars to see. Dining and entertainment abound in this neighborhood and we are blessed with EMS, HFD and HPD support that is the envy of other neighborhoods on Oahu.

We are also cursed with the noise generated to support our industry. Attempting to sleep when a garbage truck is backing up at 4:00AM without running your air conditioner is almost impossible.

Safety in operation of large vehicles is mandatory but use of cameras, proximity detectors and back up guides after 10:00PM should be considered to enhance our quality of life in Waikiki.

Mahalo for your support,

Robert Finley
Chair





February 18, 2009

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
ON HB 1303 RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES**

Thank you Chair Souki and committee members. I am Gareth Sakakida, Managing Director of the Hawaii Transportation Association (HTA) with 380 transportation related members throughout the state of Hawaii.

Hawaii Transportation Association has concerns about this bill. As a principal, it is worrisome whenever a safety device is eliminated or disengaged. This one is especially so because it involves the act of reversing a vehicle - the most dangerous maneuver a large vehicle can undertake.

The danger is exacerbated because the safety device is disengaged during a period when it is dark and there are people in the area having a good time (i.e. inebriated and/or socializing) and not paying attention - at least in Waikiki.

A measure of safety is attempted by the use of rearview cameras. However, many motor carriers in Hawaii have drifted away from their use because drivers began to rely on them too much and forgot about critical procedures for reversing. Camera angles were also found to be too limited.

Flashing lights can be effective. However, they are no help to blind persons, and are no help if the lights blind a sighted person.

It has been accepted in the construction industry that a warning system is not necessary when a guide is assisting the driver. However, the guiding is done by personnel familiar with the type of vehicles, and this movement takes place in a controlled area populated by people who are also knowledgeable of the situation.

A guide who is unfamiliar with, or is unaware of, the limitations of large vehicles can miss critical directional needs. A guide may miss detecting pedestrians or obstructions because of the darkness and/or limited line of sight because of the vehicle's size.

This guide's role is extremely critical and liability should be assumed for damage, injury, or fatality that occurs while guiding the vehicle. We suggest an amendment to page 3, line 10 to read, ". . . vehicle's driver. **The guide shall be liable for any damages, injuries, and/or fatalities that occur while guiding the vehicle.**

Thank you.

awana3-Elenoa

From: Les Parsons [cascadesunrise@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 11:29 AM
To: TRNtestimony
Cc: Rep. Tom Brower
Subject: Testimony HB 1303

To respected members of the Committee:

Thank you for consideration of my brief testimony in strong support of HB 1303.
I am among the thousands of people who have been negatively impacted by back up beepers on a variety of vehicles. This seems like very sensible legislation. I urge your approval.

With Aloha,
Les Parsons
1741 Ala Moana Blvd. #82
Honolulu, HI 96815