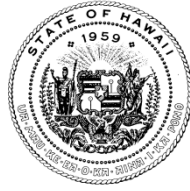


DAVID Y. IGE  
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STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

IN REPLY REFER TO:

April 8, 2015  
1:20PM  
State Capitol, Room 414

**SCR 142**  
**REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO ASSESS THE**  
**INCIDENCE OF ALCOHOL-RELATED MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS AND**  
**ASSOCIATED MEDICAL COSTS**

Senate Committee on Transportation  
Senate Committee on Health

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The Department of Transportation (DOT) **opposes** Senate Concurrent Resolution 142 requesting the department of transportation to assess the incidence of alcohol-related motor vehicle accidents and associated medical costs. The purpose of this resolution is to have DOT assess alcohol-related crashes in the State and the associated medical costs.

DOT does not have the capability to assess medical costs. This resolution is too broad in using the term "assess." The resolution does not specify the terms of the assessment nor does it identify what conclusion the assessment should achieve. The Department of Health (DOH) may have already addressed this resolution in their analysis as published in their *Injuries in Hawaii 2007-2011 report*.

DOT does not see a need for SCR 142 as this resolution may have already been accomplished by DOH.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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### WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Submitted to the  
Senate Committees on Transportation and Health  
Wednesday, April 8, 2015 at 1:20 p.m.

By  
Richard Bley-Vroman, Chancellor  
And  
Jerris Hedges, MD, MD, MMM  
Dean, John A. Burns School of Medicine  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SCR 142 – REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO ASSESS  
THE INCIDENCE OF ALCOHOL-RELATED MOTOR VEHICLE  
ACCIDENTS AND ASSOCIATED MEDICAL COSTS.

Chairs Nishihara and Green, Vice Chairs Harimoto and Wakai, and members of the  
Committees:

The University of Hawai'i supports this resolution, intended to provide a census of  
alcohol-related motor vehicle accidents and the medical costs associated with them.

The school stands ready to cooperate and assist in the evaluation, as called for in the  
resolution.

We believe that the measure will provide data which can help the State assess and  
maintain an appropriate level of trauma care providers, services and resources in  
support of this critical health care problem throughout Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.



Mothers Against Drunk Driving HAWAII  
745 Fort Street, Suite 303  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
Phone (808) 532-6232  
Fax (808) 532-6004  
hi.state@madd.org

April 8, 2015

**To:** Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair –Senate Committee on Transportation; Senator Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair; and members of the committee  
  
Senator Josh Green, Chair — Senate Committee on Health; Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair; and members of the committee

**From:** Arkie Koehl/Carol McNamee, Co-Chairmen – Public Policy Committee, MADD-Hawaii

**Re:** Senate Concurrent Resolution 142 – Assessing Alcohol-Related Incidents

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I am Arkie Koehl, speaking in support of the intent of SCR 142 on behalf of the membership of MADD Hawaii.

While MADD strongly endorses this effort to assess, document, quantify and publicize the true costs of drunk driving in Hawaii, we do not feel qualified to comment on the mechanics of undertaking the task outlined in the SCR, i.e., which government body should be assigned primary responsibility. We look forward to attending the hearing and listening to viewpoints on that issue.

MADD congratulates those responsible for initiating this concurrent resolution, and stand ready to assist as needed.

Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair  
Committee on Transportation  
Senator Joshua Green, Chair  
Committee on Health

Susan Steinemann, MD  
1356 Lusitana St, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
586-2922  
[steine@hawaii.edu](mailto:steine@hawaii.edu)

Wednesday, April 8, 2015

Support for SCR 142, Relating to Incidence of Alcohol-Related Motor Vehicle Accidents

Trauma is the leading cause of death and disability for young people (age 1-44) in Hawaii. Alcohol is associated with 31% of motor vehicle crashes and 45% of motor vehicle fatalities in our state. Hawaii has the dubious distinction of being fifth in the nation for the percentage of alcohol-related motor vehicle deaths. Alcohol is also a major precipitating factor for other forms of traumatic injury and death: falls, assaults, drownings and suicide.

In addition to the substantial societal costs of loss of productive years of life from alcohol-related trauma deaths, caring for trauma patients is expensive. 2007-2011 data reveal hospital charges for motor vehicle-related injuries exceeded \$60 million annually, and costs have increased dramatically since then. Additional health care costs are incurred by field emergency medical care, rehabilitation, and workman's compensation. All of these costs are frequently borne by the state, as an unusually large proportion of alcohol related motor vehicle trauma involves uninsured or income-qualifying insured patients.

It is time to shed light on the financial burden of alcohol related injury that is currently borne by every taxpaying citizen in our state. I support SCR 142, but would encourage the following modifications:

- (1) Expand the research to include all alcohol-related injury, not just motor vehicle accidents
- (2) Allow the Department of Health to take the lead on this research, in collaboration with the John A. Burns School of Medicine (and advised as necessary by the Department of Transportation.) The DOH has the expertise, access and confidentiality necessary for research involving patient data (protected health information).

Susan Steinemann, MD  
Trauma Surgeon  
Associate Professor, Interim Chair  
University of Hawaii Department of Surgery