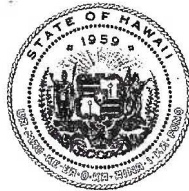


HB1011, HD1

TESTIMONY

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

March 17, 2016
2:45 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 229

**H.B. 1011, H.D. 1
RELATING TO THE TRAFFIC CODE**

Senate Committee on Transportation and Energy

The Department of Transportation **supports the intent** of this bill which will prohibit the installation of any aftermarket part on a wheel that will extend 4 inches or more beyond the wheel rim.

Although the items noted in the bill generally pose no threat to safety, in the event of pedestrian sideswipe or similar incident, an extended spinner, or similar item has potential for causing added injury unnecessarily. From a safety perspective, these aftermarket items are similar to old style hood ornaments that did not collapse or fold back when impacted.

Spinners or spikes that extend beyond the rim have potential for injuring someone walking past a vehicle in a crowded parking lot. People walking between cars in this situation often do not pay much attention to things below the hood level of a vehicle, because they are watching for traffic and looking for their car. It is not uncommon for pedestrians in parking lots to be close enough to a vehicle to brush against it. In this situation extended spikes could cause a person to get a leg injury by brushing against an unseen dangerous wheel.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Testimony by:
Ford N. Fuchigami
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
JADE T. BUTAY
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
DARRELL T. YOUNG

IN REPLY REFER TO:

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE (808) 529-3111 • INTERNET www.honolulu.gov



KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR

LOUIS M. KEALOHA
CHIEF

MARIE A. McCAULEY
CARY OKIMOTO
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE DI-GR

March 17, 2016

The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
and Members
Committee on Transportation and Energy
State Senate
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Inouye and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill No. 1011, H.D. 1, Relating to the Traffic Code

I am Darren Izumo, Major of the Traffic Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu. The HPD supports the passage of House Bill No. 1011, H.D. 1, Relating to the Traffic Code.

Any aftermarket rim or wheel ornamentation that extends more than four inches beyond the rim of a vehicle has the potential to cause damage to other vehicles and harm to bicyclists and pedestrians.

The HPD urges you to support House Bill No. 1011, H.D. 1, Relating to the Traffic Code.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darren Izumo", is written over a horizontal line.

Darren Izumo, Major
Traffic Division

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Louis M. Kealoha", is written over a horizontal line.
for Louis M. Kealoha
Chief of Police



March 17, 2016

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
ON HB 1011 HD1 RELATING TO THE TRAFFIC CODE**

Thank you Chair Inouye and committee members. I am Gareth Sakakida, Managing Director of the Hawaii Transportation Association (HTA) with over 350 transportation related members throughout the state of Hawaii.

We support the intent of this bill, but amendments are necessary.

Our aim is to ensure that commercial vehicles that come in from original equipment manufacturers are not suddenly rendered illegal by this proposal. Ever since we can remember, trucks and buses have been designed with wheels, covers, caps, studs, lugnuts and their covers that protrude past the wheel rim by as much as five inches. Therefore we can support this bill with an amendment like the following:

““Dangerous wheels” means any wheel, wheel cover, hubcap, lug nut cover or cap, prong, or any ornamentation affixed to any of the aforementioned items that extends at least four inches beyond the portion of the wheel rim that extends furthest curbside **when measuring wheels on the vehicle’s curbside, and that extends furthest streetside when measuring wheels on the vehicle’s streetside,** [from the vehicle] and that may cause injury or property damage by minimal contact with a person or object.”

Or, a simpler version might be:

““Dangerous wheels” means any wheel, wheel cover, hubcap, lug nut cover or cap, prong, or any ornamentation affixed to any of the aforementioned items that extends at least four inches beyond the portion of the wheel rim that extends furthest [curbside] **away** from the vehicle and that may cause injury or property damage by minimal contact with a person or object.”

A four inch protrusion is reasonable for a commercial motor vehicle when measured from the base of the wheel rim portion farthest away from the vehicle.

However, four inches may be a bit much for lighter weight cargo vans, utility trucks, or automobile. These lighter weight working vehicles do come with items from the original manufacturer that extend up to two inches beyond the wheel rim based on our observations.

We have never heard of injuries or property damage caused by any wheel part extending past the rim. If the vehicle is in motion no one should be anywhere near the vehicle.

If stationary, it is still not easy to get that close to such a vehicle's wheel and accidentally hurt oneself, but there are appurtenances on a commercial motor vehicle that you must be more wary of like fenders, mirrors and their brackets, step ups, and any protruding load.

There are aftermarket items that include lugnut covers and extensions. In reality lugnut covers can make the wheel safer by covering the bare lugnuts and studs. Extensions can appear ominous and some may be the cause of concern. However, many are made of plastic and pop on and off of the lugnuts.

Thank you.

Kaala Coleman

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 1:21 PM
To: TRE Testimony
Cc: victor.ramos@mpd.net
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1011 on Mar 17, 2016 14:45PM*

HB1011

Submitted on: 3/16/2016

Testimony for TRE on Mar 17, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Victor K. Ramos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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