
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE TRAFFIC CODE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the number of motor
2 vehicles using wheels with a propensity to cause severe injury
3 and property damage has increased. By design, most of these
4 wheels have parts that extend past their rim, including gorilla
5 pokes, superpoke elbows, and giraffe necks; however, others not
6 designed as such are just as dangerous due to the addition of
7 aftermarket parts, such as lug nuts and wheel covers that bear
8 sharp pointed projections.

9 The legislature further finds that existing law does not
10 address the inherent dangers associated with the use of this
11 type of motor vehicle wheel.

12 The purpose of this Act is to prohibit the use of certain
13 types of motor vehicle wheels that are considered dangerous.

14 SECTION 2. Chapter 291C, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
15 amended by adding a new section to part XII to be appropriately
16 designated and to read as follows:



1 "§291C- Dangerous wheels; prohibited. No person shall
2 operate a vehicle, trailer, or semi-trailer equipped with
3 dangerous wheels."

4 SECTION 3. Section 291C-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
5 amended by adding a new definition to be appropriately inserted
6 and to read as follows:

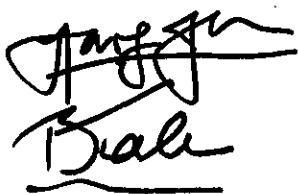
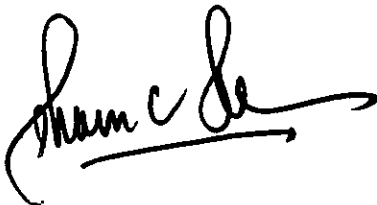
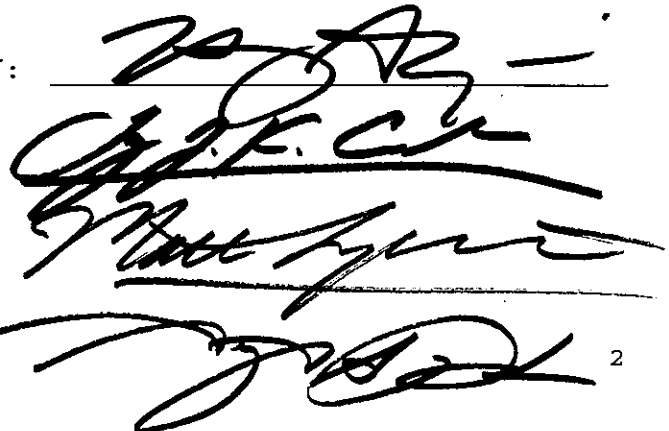
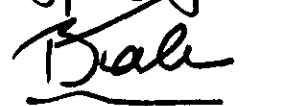
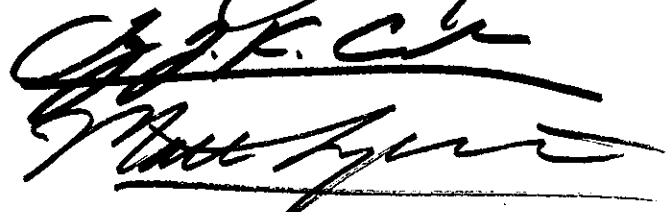

7 "Dangerous wheels" means any wheel, wheel cover, hubcap,
8 lug nut cover or cap, prong, or any ornamentation affixed to any
9 of the aforementioned items that extends at least four inches
10 beyond the outer edge of the wheel's rim and that may cause
11 injury or property damage by minimal contact with a person or
12 object."

13 SECTION 4. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
14 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
15 begun before its effective date.

16 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

17 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

18
INTRODUCED BY:

H.B. NO. 1011

dykes home

Linda L. Chingame

G. James

St. De

Song Song

JAN 27 2015



H.B. NO. 1011

Report Title:

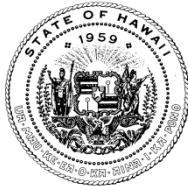
Traffic Code; Dangerous Wheels; Prohibited

Description:

Defines dangerous wheels and prohibits their use.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.





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

February 11, 2015
10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 309

**H.B. 1011
RELATING TO THE TRAFFIC CODE**

House Committee on Transportation

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. It is suggested that consideration be given to allowing the items to extend no further than the outer edge of the fender.

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 the 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 tire also 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 of
Ford N. Fuchigami
DIRECTOR

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

IN REPLY REFER TO:



February 11, 2015

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

Thank you Chair Aquino and committee members. I am Gareth Sakakida, Managing Director of the Hawaii Transportation Association (HTA) with over 400 transportation related members throughout the state of Hawaii.

We could support this bill with an amendment to modify the allowed extension of five inches for motor vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating of over 10,000 pounds, and extension of two inches for motor vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating of 10,000 pounds or less.

Ever since we can remember, Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) have designed trucks and buses with wheels, covers, caps, studs, lugnuts and their covers that protrude past the wheel rim. These stock designs have been measured to as much as 5 inches from the wheel rim.

That 5 inches is a lot for an automobile, but not as much for a commercial motor vehicle. 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.

No one has ever 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.

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, they are made of plastic and pop on and off of the lugnuts.

The bottom line is we oppose making OEM equipment illegal since there is nothing we can do about them. Lugnut covers can be a good thing and should not be categorically made illegal. We require latitude for our equipment merely to operate as we have always done.

Chapter 291-34, Hawaii Revised Statutes allows a nine foot width, including load, which we should be held to.

Thank you.