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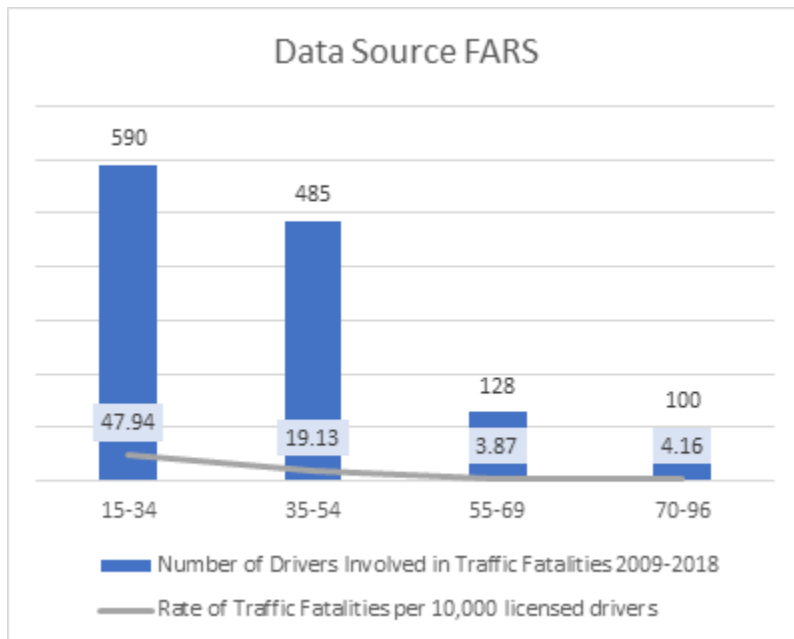
February 7, 2020
10:00 A.M.
State Capitol, Room 423

H.B. 1617
RELATING TO DRIVER'S LICENSES

House Committee on Transportation

The Department of Transportation **opposes** H.B. 1617 which extends the renewal period from two years to four years for licensees between the ages of seventy-two and seventy-nine.

The most current Fatality Analysis Reporting System data suggests that while our younger drivers are exponentially more at risk for a crash, the rate of fatal crashes increases for drivers 70 years and over.



As such, we recommend keeping the renewal period at two years to ensure that the vision test as well as information on medical conditions are current.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



Hawaii

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Committee on Transportation
Friday, February 7, 2020
10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 423

To: Representative Henry Aquino, Chair
Re: H.B. 1617 Relating to Driver's License

Dear Chair Aquino, Vice-Chair Hashimoto and Members of the Committee,

My name is Keali'i Lopez and I am the State Director for AARP Hawai'i. AARP is a membership organization of people age fifty and over, with nearly 145,000 members in Hawai'i. AARP advocates for issues that matter to Hawai'i families, including the high cost of long-term care; access to affordable, quality health care for all generations; and serving as a reliable information source on issues critical to people over the age of fifty.

AARP Hawai'i **supports H.B. No. 1617**. This bill changes the renewal period for driver's licenses for persons 72 years old and older from every two years to every four years.

People age 50 and older make nearly 90 percent of their local trips by private vehicle. Vast majority of them hold a driver's license. One reason older people are reliant on driving is that they live in communities in which driving is required for their grocery shopping, medical visits and other daily activities.

Typically, states such as Hawai'i have measures in place to identify at-risk or unsafe drivers of all ages. These measures include regular vision testing or self-reporting of medical conditions. Therefore, it is more appropriate to assess all drivers' ability to be safe on the road, rather than targeting older drivers specifically. This measure attempts to address the age-discriminating renewal requirement and allow a more reasonable length of time for an older driver to renew their license.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in support of H.B.1617.



Dear Honorable Legislator(s),

Re: HB1617

Measure Title: RELATING TO DRIVER'S LICENSES.

Report Title: Driver's License; Renewal; Seniors

Thank you for this opportunity to express my views on HB1617 which proposes to extend the 2-year renewal of drivers licenses to 4 years for those 72 years and older.

I strongly agree with HB1617 that the 2-year renewal period should be extended to 4 years.

A major concern regarding extending the renewal relicensing periods for older drivers may be that older drivers appear to be more at risk of causing automobile accidents, however, this may not be the case.

In an article by Jonathan Sullivan, Science writer for BBC News, using research from Swansea University in 2016, the author challenged the idea that older people are dangerous drivers. "Analysis of data on vehicle accidents showed that drivers aged 70 are involved in 3–4 times fewer accidents than 17–21 year old men."

Charles Musselwhite, associate professor of gerontology at Swansea University's Centre for Innovative Ageing, found that dangerous driving is not generally an issue for older people. The professor stated that "older drivers compensate for their declining powers by driving more carefully, slowing down, leaving larger gaps, and choosing better weather and quieter times to go out in the car." —

<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-37292951>

Philip Gomm, Head of External Communications of the RAC Foundation (Royal Automobile Club) stated in the publication, The Guardian, "Older drivers often get a bad rap, as they actually tend to be some of the safest people on the road. They often self-regulate and avoid situations where they feel uncomfortable, such as driving during the rush hour, at night or on motorways." —

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2016/sep/06/elderly-drivers>

According to a RAND Corporation study by Loughran, Seabury and Zakaras, "What Risks Do Older Drivers Pose to Traffic Safety?" which looked at data on traffic accidents, their cause, and average miles traveled for different age group, researchers found that "older drivers, who represent 15 percent of all licensed drivers, cause 7 percent of all two-car accidents (both fatal and nonfatal). Younger drivers, on the other hand, who represent 13 percent of all licensed drivers, cause 43 percent of all two-car accidents."

https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_briefs/RB9272.html

Other reasons to support extending the driver's license renewal period from 2 years to 4 years are stated below:

(1) The reduction in renewal relicensing periods from 8 years down to 2 years is extremely abrupt. It seems drastically inequitable, as there is no gradual reduction, for example, from 8 years down to 4 years, then perhaps at a more advanced age down to 2 years.

(2) According to an article by the Insurance Information Institute, "State Drivers License Renewal Laws Including Requirements for Older Drivers," as of September 2019, Hawaii is one of only 6 states that require 2-year renewals for older drivers.

Connecticut: 2-year renewal at age 65
Hawaii: 2-year renewal at age 72
Illinois: 2-year renewal at age 81
Iowa: 2-year renewal at age 72
Rhode Island: 2-year renewal at age 75
Texas: 2-year renewal at age 85

22 states have renewal requirements ranging from 3 to 6 years for older drivers; 28 states have the same renewal requirements for older drivers and younger drivers.

<https://www.iii.org/state-drivers-license-renewal-laws-including-requirements-for-older-drivers>

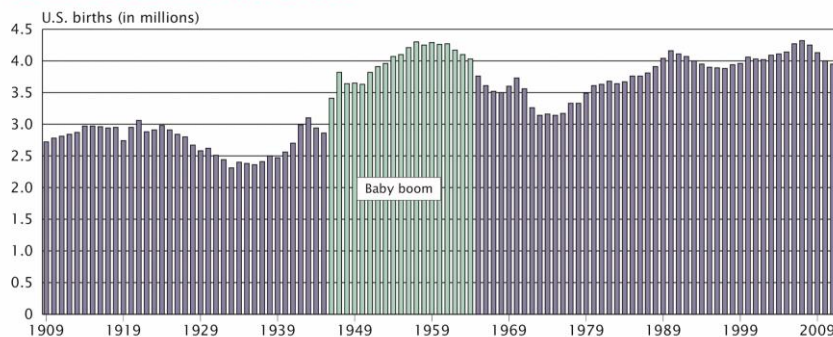
(3) There will be less congestion at the DMV offices due to the reduced number of persons needing to renew their licenses, resulting in more appointment slots for other persons.

(4) Extending the renewal period will result in less paperwork and accounting of funds for DMV office personnel.

(5) The city would receive renewal fees upfront for 4 years (vs. 2 years); there would not be any loss of income for the city as the license fee is the same (\$5.00 per year) whether the renewal period is for 2 years or 8 years.

(6) HB1617 is being proactive in addressing the imminent problem of relicensing the large number of Baby Boomers, now in their 7th decade of life. See Figure 1 below for the number of individuals born in 1946 and later.

Figure 1.
Number of Births, Annual Percent Change in Number of Births, and Annual Birth Rate for the United States: 1909 to 2012



U.S. Department of Commerce Economics and Statistics Administration U.S. CENSUS BUREAU
census.gov The Baby Boom Cohort in the United States: 2012 to 2060 Issued May 2014 P25-1141
By Sandra L. Colby and Jennifer M. Ortman Current Population Reports Population Estimates and Projection

Based on the above reasons and data presented, I humbly request your support in the passage of HB1617.

Mahalo and Aloha,

Maureen S. Abe
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satoeabe@yahoo.com

HB-1617

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 8:30:38 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/7/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Golojuch	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HB1617. I believe a four-year driver's license for those over 72 is more appropriate than a two-year license.

Please pass HB1617.

Mike Golojuch, Sr., Lt Col, USAF (Ret)

HB-1617

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 8:41:04 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/7/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a senior, I strongly support this bill. Forcing us to renew the licenses every two years is discriminatory. Every four years makes sense. We should not be treated differently than those 24 years of age or younger.

lynne matusow

HB-1617

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 11:24:08 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/7/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nicholas Striebich	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this bill, we need to stop discriminating against senior citizens. I am 74 and can drive as well as anyone. Seniors are safer drivers, and they spend less time on the road. We don't text or use our cel phones while driving. We drive slower, and follow the speed limits. We are not distracted as are the younger generations. We do not drive while intoxicated or otherwise impaired. We are the generation that has taught everyone else how to do things correctly, like safe driving. Just because we are 72 and older does not mean we can't see or think. If we need a vision test, then so should everybody else. Feel free to check my driving record. Seniors drive better than anyone, so why punish us by making us renew our driver license every 2 years?