

**THE HONORABLE DAVID Y. IGE, CHAIR
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

Twenty-Seventh State Legislature
Regular Session of 2013
State of Hawai`i

March 25, 2013
9:10 a.m.
State Capital, Room 224

**H.B. 980
RELATING TO HIGHWAY SAFETY**

Chair David Y. Ige, Vice Chair Michelle N. Kidani, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, AAA Hawai`i respectfully submits the following testimony in support of H.B. 980, the intent of which is to improve overall traffic safety by reducing driver distractions related to the use of cellular phones and other mobile electronic devices while operating a motor vehicle.

AAA Hawai`i was founded in 1915 in Honolulu and is a leader in motorist services and a strong advocate for traffic safety. AAA Hawai`i has more than 135,000 members. Service to and the safety of our members, other motorists, and all road users is the founding and continuing purpose of AAA Hawai`i. Research shows that a significant number of motor vehicle crashes are attributed to driver inattention while driving and the use of cellular phones or other mobile electronic devices while operating a vehicle is largely responsible for the inattention among drivers.

H.B. 980 will reduce traffic crashes and resulting deaths, injuries, and property damage by prohibiting the use of hand-held cellular phones and other mobile electronic devices while operating a vehicle. As a common sense measure, H.B. 980 will help to prevent distracted driving, improve traffic safety, and better conform Hawai`i law to national safe driving standards.

Modern technology can provide a means for families and friends to stay in touch while traveling and persons to conduct business during daily commutes. However, the technology must be used responsibly and in a way that does not interfere with a driver's ability to operate a motor vehicle. Distracting activities, including the cognitive demands

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associated with the use of interactive communication, can divert a driver's attention away from driving, impair effective vehicle control, and delay recognition of safety threats.

AAA Hawai'i strongly supports and agrees with the objectives of H.B. 980 and believes that by prohibiting adult drivers from using hand-held cellular phones and other mobile electronic devices and teens from any use of cellular phones and other mobile electronic devices while operating a vehicle, this legislation will improve traffic safety by reducing the opportunities for drivers to become distracted while operating a vehicle. AAA Hawai'i believes that H.B. 980 will help to prevent traffic crashes, injuries, and deaths that occur due to the inattention to driving that can result when drivers become distracted while attempting to use a cellular phone or other mobile electronic device while operating a vehicle, which causes drivers to take their eyes off the road, mind off the task of driving, and hands off the wheel.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of H.B. 980.

Very truly yours,

Liane Sumida

Liane Sumida
Regional Manager

**Testimony of
Gary M. Slovin / Mihoko E. Ito
on behalf of
Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers**

DATE: March 22, 2013

TO: Senator David Ige
Chair, Committee on Ways and Means

Submitted Via WAMtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: **H.B. 980 H.D.2, S.D. 1 – Relating to Highway Safety
Hearing Date: Monday, March 25, 2013 at 9:10 a.m.
Conference Room 211**

Dear Chair Ige and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

On behalf of the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers (“Alliance”) we submit **comments** regarding H.B. 980 H.D 2. The Alliance is a trade association of twelve car and light truck manufacturers including BMW Group, Chrysler Group LLC, Ford Motor Company, General Motors Company, Jaguar Land Rover, Mazda, Mercedes-Benz USA, Mitsubishi Motors, Porsche, Toyota, Volkswagen Group of North America, and Volvo.

The Alliance supports restricting the handheld use of mobile telephones while driving. However, the Alliance also supports the use of the hands-free technology that is now in widespread use in late model and new motor vehicles. The Alliance’s interpretation of H.B. 980, H.D 2, S.D.1 is that the bill permits the use of hands-free technology, and therefore, Alliance can support the current language in the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on this measure.

Gary M. Slovin
Mihoko E. Ito
Tiffany N. Yajima
Nicole A. Velasco

1099 Alakea Street, Suite 1400
Honolulu, HI 96813
(808) 539-0840

To: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Mark Sektnan, Vice President

Re: HB 980 HD2 SD1: Highway Safety: Use of Mobile Electronic Devices
PCI Position: Support

Date: Monday, March 25, 2013
9:10 a.m., Conference Room 211

Aloha Chair Ige and Members of the Committee:

The Property Casualty Insurers Association of America (PCI) respectfully requests your support for HB 980 HD2 SD1 which would prohibit the use of mobile electronic devices while driving. With increasing road congestion, Americans spend more time in their cars than ever before. There is a natural tendency to try to make time behind the wheel more effective by adding other activities. The most commonly discussed distraction is the cellular telephone.

Studies conducted on cell phone use when driving continue to suggest a decrease in driving ability when a driver is engaged in a cell phone conversation. Complex conversations result in the greatest increases in response time and likelihood of not responding at all to traffic situations. In a study published in 2005; researchers from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety and two universities in Australia looked at accidents where the driver was treated in a hospital. They found a fourfold increase in likelihood of a crash when the driver was using a cell phone while driving within a period up to ten minutes preceding the accident.

Studies reviewed by the Institute for Highway Safety found that nearly all of the studies found “some measures of driver performance were affected by the cognitive distractions associated with cellphone tasks. Phone conversation tasks typically increased reaction times, reduced speeds and increased lane deviations and steering wheel movements.

One reason cellphone conversations degrade driving performance is that listening and processing information from a phone conversation draws mental resources away from driving.

In recent years there has been a boom in “text messaging” or the use of a hand held device (cell phone or PDA) to send and read written messages. The nature of text messaging requires that the driver take their attention off of the road, and on to the device which they are using to read or write a text message.

A recent study of truck drivers by the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute showed that the risk of a crash or near-crash event while writing or reading a text message was 23.2 times higher than non-distracted driving. Text messaging is currently banned for all drivers in 28 states and the District of Columbia. In addition, novice drivers are banned from texting in an additional eight states.

For these reasons, we urge the committee to pass this bill.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: chjung4@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB980 on Mar 25, 2013 09:10AM
Date: Thursday, March 21, 2013 9:36:25 PM

HB980

Submitted on: 3/21/2013

Testimony for WAM on Mar 25, 2013 09:10AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Clement Jung (KH7HO)	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: To: Senator David Ige, Chair and Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
From: Clement Jung (KH7HO) I am support of the HB980, HD2, SD1. As a amateur radio operator and as a member of C&C of Honolulu Department of Emergency Management and State Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), as the Windward Oahu Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) Emergency Coordinator, and as the State of Hawaii Skywarn Ham Coordinator, allowing amateur radio operators to communicate in our vehicles while driving is essential in emergency communications for our served agencies to relay important information to protect lives and propety. Again I urge the passing of this House Bill 980, HD2, SD1. Thank you.

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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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: david@kingdonconsulting.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB980 on Mar 25, 2013 09:10AM
Date: Thursday, March 21, 2013 4:58:42 PM

HB980

Submitted on: 3/21/2013

Testimony for WAM on Mar 25, 2013 09:10AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Kingdon, MPH, Paramedic	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a practicing paramedic in Hawaii, I continue to observe the dangerous and sometimes tragic effects of distracted driving. I have seen multiple injuries and fatalities directly attributable to this irresponsible behavior. In addition, our emergency response is often delayed and endangered by other drivers' talking and texting. On one occasion while transporting a patient, my own ambulance was struck broadside by a delivery truck driver who was texting as he drove through a stop sign. Education is not enough - Hawaii needs enactment and enforcement of relevant legislation. Thank you.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: w9w@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB980 on Mar 25, 2013 09:10AM
Date: Monday, March 25, 2013 4:38:04 AM



HB980

Submitted on: 3/25/2013

Testimony for WAM on Mar 25, 2013 09:10AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kurt	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: More rules and regulations telling citizens what they can or cannot do.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: ryanozawa@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB980 on Mar 25, 2013 09:10AM
Date: Friday, March 22, 2013 2:15:33 PM

HB980

Submitted on: 3/22/2013

Testimony for WAM on Mar 25, 2013 09:10AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ryan Ozawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this measure to create a uniform policy across counties that have separate laws regarding distracted driving. I also appreciate §291C-(d)(3) and the exemption for licensed amateur radio operators. Mahalo! Ryan (KH6WEB)

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