



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

July 11, 2007

The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa, President
and Members of the Senate
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Madam President and Members of the Senate:

RE: Senate Bill No. 1047 HD2 CD1

On July 10, 2007, Senate Bill No. 1047 entitled "A Bill for an Act Relating to Highway Safety" became law without my signature, pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the State Constitution.

Senate Bill No. 1047 will allow drivers aged 19 and 20 to drive vehicles weighing 15,000 pounds or less or carrying 15 or fewer occupants. Further, this bill prohibits the acceptance of plea-bargains by commercial drivers for traffic violations, other than parking violations.

In 2005 I vetoed a similar measure which would have allowed commercial drivers licenses to be issued to drivers under the age of 21. This measure is more limited in its scope and application and, thus, I have allowed it to become law. However, I remain concerned that national statistics continue to document that younger drivers have more accidents and exhibit less maturity of judgment in making driving decisions. I would urge the commercial transportation community to institute mandatory training for 19 and 20 year olds, a feature we requested in this bill but was not included by the Legislature.

This measure also contains language that conforms Hawaii statutes to the revised federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations and will ensure Hawaii continues to be eligible for federal highway matching funds.

For the foregoing reasons, I allowed Senate Bill No. 1047 to become law as Act 288, effective July 10, 2007, without my signature.

Sincerely,



LINDA LINGLE