

SUBJECT: BILL 4 (2009) as Amended

Honorable Members of the Council, Subcommittee and Staff:

I am writing to express my support of the intent of Bill 4 as amended to enhance driving safety for the citizens and visitors of the City and County of Honolulu.

However, even with the amendment to permit commercial entities to use two-way radios, I believe the Bill is still too much too soon. It restricts any hand-held or other portable electronic equipment capable of providing wireless and/or data communication. Since the intent is to prevent motor vehicle accidents caused by using cellular phones while operating a motor vehicle, the Bills broad wording prohibits the use of all non cell phone devices such as two way radios not proven to be a contributing factor to motor vehicle accidents and other wireless communication devices such as mobile display terminals used by many businesses including but not limited to tow truck operators, delivery companies, and taxi drivers.

To permit commercial interests to use two-way radios presumes they are less prone to accidents or contributing to accidents caused by said radio use. It discriminates against non-commercial users such as Federal Communication Commission licensed users. Amateur radio operators provide valuable services for a wide range off public service including but not limited to providing communication support for marathons to emergency communications during island wide blackouts and even hurricanes. The use of mobile two-way radio during non public service events provides necessary practice of proper radio use.

In summary, I think prohibiting amateur radio operators from using their radios in motor vehicle would penalize them without scientific proof or other evidence that they are more prone to accidents than commercial users.

I respectfully request that you consider taking small steps toward solving a problem by limiting the wording to strictly prohibiting cell phone use that includes texting -- while operating a motor vehicle. If sufficient evidence emerges after such cell phone use is restricted and shown enforceable, then it makes sense to review the evidence if any -- that the non-commercial two-way radio use is a significant contributing factor to motor vehicle accidents.

Respectfully,

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