

Testimony of Rich Fewell, KH6DAD
Chair and Members of the City Council
March 18, 2009
Bill 4, CD1 (09)

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CITY CLERK
HONOLULU, HAWAII

Aloha,

Please do not vote in favor of the current wording of Council Bill 4 (CD1) regarding use of electronic devices while driving.

I am the Net Control Manager for our amateur radio club (EARC) and we are volunteers who support State Civil Defense and the County Department of Emergency Management. The present wording of the bill would make volunteering our time, talents and resources as amateur radio operators limited to an at-home activity. There would be no reason to maintain radio gear in vehicles, because it would be unlawful to use them. When an emergency DOES occur, there will not be the rapid response capability of amateur radio volunteers to be on scene to be the eyes and ears and support for emergency management. A wording similar to what Washington State has done is a much better solution.

An exemption already is in the bill for those using two-way radios in the course of their jobs. Please also include "...and Licensed Amateur Radio operators licensed by the FCC" in that language. Then we can support that bill.

Thank you!

Rich Fewell
KH6DAD

MISC. COM. 690

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