
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TRAFFIC INFRACTIONS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. Section 291-D, Hawaii revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
3 and to read as follows:

4 "§291D- U-drive vehicles; traffic infractions.

5 Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, except those
6 pertaining to the care and maintenance of the vehicle, if the
7 registered owner of record is the lessor of a rental or U-drive
8 motor vehicle, as defined in section 286-2, pursuant to a
9 written lease agreement, the lessee at the time of the issuance
10 of the traffic infraction shall be responsible for such summons
11 or citation; provided, however, that said lessor shall be
12 responsible for such summons or citation if the lessor does not
13 provide the court having jurisdiction over the summons or
14 citation the name and address of the lessee within forty-five
15 days after a notice containing the date, time, and location of
16 the violation and the license number of the vehicle; provided
17 further that if requested by the lessor in writing within forty-
18 five days of such notice of violation other than for parking



1 citations, the administrative judge of the court having
2 jurisdiction over the citation or summons shall waive the
3 requirement of providing the name and address of the lessee by
4 the lessor and impose an administrative fee per statute of five
5 dollars per citation on the lessor, plus costs and fees not to
6 exceed \$10 in total per violation, notwithstanding section 607-4
7 or other sections of the law, county ordinance, or any rule to
8 the contrary. In the case of parking citations, the
9 administrative judge of the court having jurisdiction over the
10 citation or summons may waive the requirement of providing the
11 name and address of the lessee by the lessor and impose an
12 administrative fee of five dollars per parking citation on the
13 lessor, plus costs and fees not to exceed \$10 in total per such
14 violation, notwithstanding section 607-4 or other sections of
15 the law, county ordinance, or any rule to the contrary."

16 SECTION 2. Section 291D-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
17 amended as follows:

18 1. By adding three new definitions to be appropriately
19 inserted and to read:

20 "Concurrent trial" means a trial proceeding held in the
21 district or family court in which the defendant is tried
22 simultaneously in a civil case for any charged traffic



1 infraction and in a criminal case for any related criminal
2 offense, with trials to be held in one court on the same date
3 and at the same time.

4 "Notice of traffic infraction" includes a notice of parking
5 infraction.

6 "Related criminal offense" means any criminal violation or
7 crime, committed in the same course of conduct as a traffic
8 infraction, for which the defendant is arrested or charged."

9 2. By amending the definitions of "hearing", "traffic
10 infraction", and "trial" to read:

11 "Hearing" means a proceeding conducted by the district
12 court pursuant to section 291D-8 at which [~~a driver either~~] the
13 person to whom a notice of traffic infraction was issued either
14 admits to the traffic infraction, contests the notice of traffic
15 infraction, or admits to the traffic infraction but offers an
16 explanation to mitigate the monetary assessment imposed.

17 "Traffic infraction" means all violations of statutes,
18 ordinances, or rules relating to traffic movement and control,
19 including parking, standing, equipment, and pedestrian offenses,
20 for which the prescribed penalties do not include
21 imprisonment[-] and that are not otherwise specifically excluded
22 from coverage of this chapter.



1 "Trial" means a trial conducted by the district court
2 pursuant to the [~~Hawaii Rules of Penal Procedure and~~] rules of
3 the district court[-] and the Hawaii rules of evidence."

4 SECTION 3. Section 291D-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
5 amended to read as follows:

6 **"§291D-3 Applicability.** (a) Notwithstanding any other
7 provision of law to the contrary, all traffic infractions,
8 including traffic infractions committed by minors, shall be
9 adjudicated pursuant to this chapter, except as provided in
10 subsection (b). This chapter shall be applied uniformly
11 throughout the State and in all counties. No penal sanction
12 that includes imprisonment shall apply to a violation of a state
13 statute or rule, or county ordinance or rule, that would
14 constitute a traffic infraction under this chapter. No traffic
15 infraction shall be classified as a criminal offense.

16 (b) [~~No traffic infraction that involves an accident~~
17 ~~resulting in personal injury or property damage~~] Where a
18 defendant is charged with a traffic infraction and the
19 infraction is committed in the same course of conduct as a
20 criminal offense for which the offender is arrested or charged,
21 the traffic infraction shall be adjudicated pursuant to this
22 chapter[~~, but shall be adjudicated by~~]; provided that the court



1 may schedule any initial appearance, hearing, or trial on the
2 traffic infraction at the same date, time, and place as the
3 arraignment, hearing, or trial on the related criminal offense.

4 Notwithstanding this subsection and subsection (c), the
5 court shall not schedule any initial appearance, hearing, or
6 trial on the traffic infraction at the same date, time, and
7 place as the arraignment, hearing, or trial on the related
8 criminal offense where the related criminal offense is a felony
9 or is a misdemeanor for which the defendant has demanded a jury
10 trial.

11 (c) If the defendant requests a trial pursuant to section
12 291D-13, the trial shall be held in the [appropriate] district
13 [or circuit] court of the circuit in which the traffic
14 infraction was committed[, whichever has jurisdiction pursuant
15 to the applicable statute or rules of court]. If the court
16 schedules a concurrent trial pursuant to paragraph (1), the
17 concurrent trial shall be held in the appropriate district or
18 family court of the circuit in which the traffic infraction was
19 committed, whichever has jurisdiction over the related criminal
20 offense charged pursuant to the applicable statute or rule of
21 court; provided that:



1 (1) The district or family court, for the purpose of
2 trial, may schedule a civil trial on the traffic
3 infraction on the same date and at the same time as a
4 criminal trial on the related criminal offense
5 charged. The court shall enter a civil judgment as to
6 the traffic infraction and a judgment of conviction or
7 acquittal as to the related criminal offense following
8 such concurrent trial; and

9 (2) If trial on the traffic infraction is held separately
10 from and prior to trial on any related criminal
11 offense, the following shall be inadmissible in the
12 prosecution or trial of the related criminal offense,
13 except as expressly provided by the Hawaii rules of
14 evidence:

15 (A) Any written or oral statement made by the
16 defendant in proceedings conducted pursuant to
17 section 291D-7(b); and

18 (B) Any testimony given by the defendant in the trial
19 on the traffic infraction.

20 Such statements or testimony shall not be deemed a
21 waiver of the defendant's privilege against self-



1 incrimination in connection with any related criminal
2 offense.

3 (d) In no event shall section 701-109 preclude prosecution
4 for a related criminal offense where a traffic infraction
5 committed in the same course of conduct has been adjudicated
6 pursuant to this chapter.

7 ~~[(e)]~~ (e) If the defendant fails to appear ~~[for a traffic~~
8 ~~infraction which is committed in the same course of conduct as a~~
9 ~~criminal offense for which the offender is arrested or charged,]~~
10 at any scheduled court date prior to the date of trial or
11 concurrent trial and:

12 (1) The defendant's civil liability for the traffic
13 infraction has not yet been adjudicated pursuant to
14 section 291D-8, the court shall enter a judgment by
15 default in favor of the State for the traffic
16 infraction unless the court determines that good cause
17 or excusable neglect exists for the defendant's
18 failure to appear[~~,—The~~]; or

19 (2) The defendant's civil liability for the traffic
20 infraction has been adjudicated previously pursuant to
21 section 291D-8, the judgment earlier entered in favor
22 of the State shall stand unless the court determines



1 that good cause or excusable neglect exists for the
2 defendant's failure to appear.

3 (f) If the defendant fails to appear at any scheduled
4 court date prior to concurrent trial or fails to appear for
5 concurrent trial scheduled pursuant to subsection (c)(1), the
6 court shall enter a disposition pursuant to the Hawaii rules of
7 penal procedure for the criminal offense."

8 SECTION 4. Section 291D-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
9 amended to read as follows:

10 **"§291D-5 Notice of traffic infraction; form; determination**
11 **final unless contested.** (a) The notice of traffic infraction
12 for moving violations shall include the [~~complaint and~~] summons
13 for the purposes of this chapter. Whenever a notice of traffic
14 infraction is issued to the driver of a motor vehicle, the
15 driver's signature, driver's license number, and current address
16 shall be [~~affixed to~~] noted on the notice. If the driver
17 refuses to sign the notice[~~r~~] of traffic infraction, the officer
18 shall record this refusal on the notice and issue the notice to
19 the driver. Individuals to whom a notice of traffic infraction
20 is issued under this chapter need not be arraigned before the
21 court, unless required by rule of the supreme court.



1 (b) The form for the notice of traffic infraction shall be
2 prescribed by rules of the district court which shall be uniform
3 throughout the State[~~. Except in the case of traffic~~
4 ~~infractions involving parking, the~~]; provided that each judicial
5 circuit may include differing statutory, rule, or ordinance
6 provisions on its respective notice of traffic infraction.

7 (c) A notice of traffic infraction that is generated by
8 the use of electronic equipment or that bears the electronically
9 stored image of any person's signature, or both, shall be valid
10 under this chapter.

11 (d) The notice of traffic infraction shall include the
12 following:

13 (1) A statement of the specific traffic infraction[~~7~~
14 ~~including a brief statement of facts,~~] for which the
15 notice was issued;

16 (2) Except in the case of parking-related traffic
17 infractions, a brief statement of the facts;

18 [+2+] (3) A statement of the total amount to be paid for
19 each traffic infraction, which amount shall include
20 any fee, surcharge, or cost required by statute,
21 ordinance, or rule, and any monetary assessment,
22 established for the particular traffic infraction



1 pursuant to section 291D-9, to be paid by the
2 driver~~[7]~~ or registered owner of the vehicle, which
3 shall be uniform throughout the State;

4 ~~[(+3+)]~~ (4) A statement of the options provided in section
5 291D-6(b) for answering the notice and the procedures
6 necessary to exercise the options;

7 ~~[(+4+)]~~ (5) A statement that the person to whom the notice is
8 issued must answer, choosing one of the options
9 specified in section 291D-6(b), within twenty-one
10 days~~[+]~~ of issuance of the notice;

11 ~~[(+5+)]~~ (6) A statement that failure to answer the notice of
12 traffic infraction within twenty-one days of issuance
13 shall result in the entry of judgment by default for
14 the State and may result in the assessment of a late
15 penalty, and, that if the ~~[driver]~~ person to whom the
16 notice was issued fails to pay the total amount
17 specified in the default judgment within an additional
18 thirty days or to otherwise take action to set aside
19 the default, notice shall be sent to the director of
20 finance of the appropriate county ~~[that]~~:

21 (A) That the person to whom the notice of infraction
22 not involving parking was issued shall not be



1 permitted to renew or obtain a driver's license;
2 or [~~where~~]

3 (B) Where the notice was issued to a motor vehicle,
4 that the registered owner shall not be permitted
5 to register, renew the registration of, or
6 transfer title to the motor vehicle until the
7 traffic infraction is finally disposed of
8 pursuant to this chapter[+], except as provided
9 in section 291D-10(b);

10 [~~6~~] (7) A statement that, at a hearing requested to
11 contest the notice of traffic infraction conducted
12 pursuant to section 291D-8 [~~or in consideration of a~~
13 ~~written statement contesting the notice of traffic~~
14 ~~infraction~~], no officer shall be present unless the
15 driver timely requests the court to have the officer
16 present[~~The~~], and that the standard of proof to be
17 applied by the court is whether a preponderance of the
18 evidence proves that the specified traffic infraction
19 was committed;

20 [~~7~~] (8) A statement that, at a hearing requested for the
21 purpose of explaining mitigating circumstances
22 surrounding the commission of the infraction or in



1 consideration of a written request for mitigation, the
2 person shall be considered to have committed the
3 traffic infraction;

4 ~~[(8)]~~ (9) A space in which the ~~[driver's]~~ signature~~[-~~
5 ~~current address, and driver's license number]~~ of the
6 person to whom the notice was issued may be affixed;
7 and

8 ~~[(9)]~~ (10) The date, time, and place at which the ~~[driver]~~
9 person to whom the notice was issued must appear in
10 court, if the ~~[driver]~~ person is required by the
11 notice to ~~[go to]~~ appear in person at the hearing.

12 ~~[(e)]~~ (e) In the case of traffic infractions involving
13 parking[-] or equipment, where the motor vehicle is found parked
14 or stopped without a driver, the notice shall be affixed
15 conspicuously to the vehicle as provided in section 291C-167 and
16 shall include the information required by paragraphs (1) and (3)
17 to ~~[(8)]~~ (9) of subsection ~~[(b)-]~~ (d)."

18 SECTION 5. Section 291D-6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
19 amended by amending subsections (a) and (b) to read as follows:

20 "(a) A person who receives a notice of traffic infraction
21 shall answer the notice within twenty-one days of the date of
22 issuance of the notice. There shall be included with the notice



1 of traffic infraction a preaddressed envelope directed to the
2 traffic violations bureau of the applicable district court.

3 (b) ~~[It]~~ Provided that the notice of traffic infraction
4 does not require an appearance in person at hearing as set forth
5 in section 291D-5(b)(10), in answering a notice of traffic
6 infraction, a person shall have the following options:

7 (1) Admit the commission of the infraction in one of the
8 following ways:

9 (A) By mail or in person, by completing the
10 appropriate portion of the notice of traffic
11 infraction or preaddressed envelope and
12 submitting it to the authority specified on the
13 notice together with payment of the total amount
14 stated on the notice of traffic infraction.

15 Payment by mail shall be in the form of a check,
16 money order, or by an approved credit or debit
17 card. Payment in person shall be in the form of
18 United States currency, check, money order, or by
19 an approved credit or debit card; or

20 (B) Via the Internet or by telephone, by submitting
21 payment of the total amount stated on the notice
22 of traffic infraction. Payment via the Internet



1 or by telephone shall be by an approved credit or
2 debit card;

3 (2) Deny the commission of the infraction and request a
4 hearing to contest the infraction by completing the
5 appropriate portion of the notice of traffic
6 infraction or preaddressed envelope and submitting it,
7 either by mail or in person, to the authority
8 specified on the notice. In lieu of appearing in
9 person at a hearing, the person may submit a written
10 statement of grounds on which the person contests the
11 notice of traffic infraction, which shall be
12 considered by the court as a statement given in court
13 pursuant to section 291D-8(a); or

14 (3) Admit the commission of the infraction and request a
15 hearing to explain circumstances mitigating the
16 infraction by completing the appropriate portion of
17 the notice of traffic infraction or preaddressed
18 envelope and submitting it, either by mail or in
19 person, to the authority specified on the notice. In
20 lieu of appearing in person at a hearing, the person
21 may submit a written explanation of the mitigating
22 circumstances, which shall be considered by the court



1 as a statement given in court pursuant to section
2 291D-8(b)."

3 SECTION 6. Section 291D-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
4 amended to read as follows:

5 **"§291D-7 Court action after answer or failure to answer.**

6 (a) When an admitting answer is received, the court [~~shall~~
7 ~~review the driver's abstract. The court~~] shall enter judgment
8 in favor of the State in the total amount specified in the
9 notice of traffic infraction. If the total amount is not
10 submitted with the answer, the court [~~shall~~] may take action as
11 provided in section 291D-10.

12 (b) When a denying answer is received, the court shall
13 proceed as follows:

14 (1) In the case of a traffic infraction [~~that does not~~
15 ~~involve parking~~] where the person requests a hearing
16 at which the person will appear in person to contest
17 the infraction, the court shall notify the person in
18 writing of the date, time, and place of hearing to
19 contest the notice of traffic infraction. The notice
20 of hearing shall be [~~sent~~] mailed to the address
21 stated in the denying answer, or if none is given, to
22 the address stated on the notice of traffic



1 infraction. The notification also shall advise the
2 person that, if the person fails to appear at the
3 hearing, the court shall enter judgment by default in
4 favor of the State, as of the date of the scheduled
5 hearing, that the total amount specified in the
6 default judgment must be paid within thirty days [~~from~~
7 ~~notice~~] of entry of default[~~7~~] judgment, and, if it is
8 not paid, that the court shall take action as provided
9 in section 291D-10;

10 ~~[(2) In the case of a traffic infraction that involves~~
11 ~~parking, the court shall notify the person or~~
12 ~~registered owner or owners in writing of the date,~~
13 ~~time, and place of hearing to contest the notice of~~
14 ~~traffic infraction. The notice of hearing shall be~~
15 ~~sent to the address stated in the denying answer or,~~
16 ~~if none is given, to the address at which the vehicle~~
17 ~~is registered. The notification also shall advise the~~
18 ~~person that, if the person fails to appear at the~~
19 ~~hearing, the court shall enter judgment by default in~~
20 ~~favor of the State, as of the date of the scheduled~~
21 ~~hearing, that the total amount specified in the~~
22 ~~default judgment shall be paid within thirty days from~~



~~notice of default, and, if it is not paid, that the
court shall take action as provided in section
291D-10,] and~~

[+3+] (2) When a denying answer is accompanied by a written
statement of the grounds on which the person contests
the notice of [~~the~~] traffic infraction, the court
shall proceed as provided in section 291D-8(a) and
shall notify the person of its decision, including the
total amount assessed, if any, by mailing [~~it~~] the
notice of entry of judgment within [~~thirty~~] forty-five
days of the postmarked date of the answer to the
address provided by the person in the denying answer,
or if none is given, to the address given when the
notice of traffic infraction was issued or, in the
case of parking violations, [~~to the address stated in~~
~~the denying answer or, if none is given,~~] to the
address at which the vehicle is registered. The
[~~decision~~] notice of entry of judgment also shall
advise the person, if it is determined that the
infraction was committed[7] and judgment is entered in
favor of the State, that the person has the right,
within thirty days[7] of entry of judgment, to request



1 a trial and shall specify the procedures for doing so.
2 The notice of [~~decision~~] entry of judgment shall also
3 notify the person, if an amount is assessed by the
4 court for [~~finer,~~] monetary assessments, fees,
5 surcharges, or costs [~~, or monetary assessments~~], that
6 if the person does not request a trial [~~,~~] within the
7 time specified in this paragraph, the total amount
8 assessed shall be paid within thirty days [~~,~~] of entry
9 of judgment. The notice of entry of judgment shall
10 [~~warn~~] inform the person that if the total amount is
11 not paid within thirty days, the court shall take
12 action as provided in section 291D-10.

13 (c) When an answer admitting commission of the infraction
14 but seeking to explain mitigating circumstances is received, the
15 court shall proceed as follows:

16 (1) In the case of a traffic infraction [~~which does not~~
17 ~~involve parking~~] where the person requests a hearing
18 at which the person will appear in person to explain
19 mitigating circumstances, the court shall notify the
20 person in writing of the date, time, and place of
21 hearing to explain mitigating circumstances. The
22 notice of hearing shall be [~~sent~~] mailed to the



1 address stated in the answer, or if none is given, to
2 the address stated on the notice of traffic
3 infraction. The notification also shall advise the
4 person that, if the person fails to appear at the
5 hearing, the court shall enter judgment by default in
6 favor of the State, as of the date of the scheduled
7 hearing, that the total amount stated in the default
8 judgment [~~shall~~] must be paid within thirty days [~~from~~
9 ~~notice~~] of entry of default [~~7~~] judgment, and, if it is
10 not paid, that the court shall take action as provided
11 in section 291D-10;

12 ~~[(2) In the case of a traffic infraction which involves~~
13 ~~parking, the court shall notify the person in writing~~
14 ~~of the date, time, and place of the hearing. The~~
15 ~~notice shall be sent to the address at which the~~
16 ~~vehicle is registered. The notice of hearing on~~
17 ~~mitigating circumstances shall advise the person that~~
18 ~~the court shall enter judgment for the State and the~~
19 ~~hearing shall be limited to an explanation of the~~
20 ~~mitigating circumstances. The notice of hearing also~~
21 ~~shall state that if the person fails to appear at the~~
22 ~~hearing, the total amount specified in the default~~



1 ~~judgment shall be paid within thirty days of the~~
2 ~~scheduled hearing. The notice of hearing shall warn~~
3 ~~the person that if the total amount is not paid within~~
4 ~~thirty days, the court shall take action as provided~~
5 ~~in section 291D-10,] and~~

6 ~~(+3+)~~ (2) If a written explanation is included with an
7 answer admitting commission of the infraction, the
8 court shall enter judgment for the State and, after
9 reviewing the explanation, determine the total amount
10 of the [~~finer,~~] monetary assessments, fees,
11 surcharges, or costs[~~, or monetary assessments~~] to be
12 assessed, if any. The court shall then notify the
13 person of the total amount to be paid for the
14 infraction, if any. There shall be no appeal from the
15 [~~order,~~] judgment. If the court assesses an amount
16 for [~~finer,~~] monetary assessments, fees, surcharges,
17 or costs[~~, or monetary assessments~~], the court shall
18 also notify the person that the total amount shall be
19 paid within thirty days of [~~the postmarked date of the~~
20 ~~decision,~~] entry of judgment. The notice of entry of
21 judgment also shall [~~warn~~] inform the person that if
22 the total amount is not paid within thirty days, the



1 court shall take action as provided in section
2 291D-10.

3 (d) If the person fails to answer within twenty-one days
4 of issuance of the notice of traffic infraction, the court shall
5 take action as provided in subsection (e).

6 (e) Whenever judgment by default in favor of the State is
7 entered, the court shall mail a notice of entry of default
8 judgment [~~of default~~] to the address provided by the person when
9 the notice of traffic infraction was issued or, in the case of
10 parking [~~violations,~~] infractions, to the address stated in the
11 answer, if any, or the address at which the vehicle is
12 registered. The notice of entry of default judgment shall
13 advise the person that the total amount specified in the default
14 judgment shall be paid within thirty days of entry of default
15 judgment and shall explain the procedure for setting aside a
16 default judgment. The notice of entry of default judgment shall
17 also [~~warn~~] inform the person that if the total amount is not
18 paid within thirty days, the court shall take action as provided
19 in section 291D-10. Judgment by default for the State entered
20 pursuant to this chapter may be set aside pending final
21 disposition of the traffic infraction upon written application
22 of the person and posting of an appearance bond equal to the



1 amount of the total amount specified in the default judgment and
2 any other assessment imposed pursuant to section 291D-9. The
3 application shall show good cause or excusable neglect for the
4 person's failure to take action necessary to prevent entry of
5 judgment by default. Upon receipt of the application~~[7]~~ and
6 required appearance bond, the court shall take action to remove
7 the restriction placed on the person's driver's license or the
8 motor vehicle's registration and title imposed pursuant to
9 section 291D-10. Thereafter, the court shall determine whether
10 good cause or excusable neglect exists for the person's failure
11 to take action necessary to prevent entry of judgment by
12 default. If so, the application to set aside default judgment
13 shall be granted, the default judgment shall be set aside, and
14 the notice of traffic infraction shall be disposed of pursuant
15 to this chapter. If not, the application to set aside default
16 judgment shall be denied, the appearance bond shall be forfeited
17 and applied to satisfy amounts due under the default judgment,
18 and the notice of traffic infraction shall be finally disposed.
19 In either case, the court~~[, within thirty days,]~~ shall determine
20 the existence of good cause or excusable neglect and notify the
21 person of its decision on the application in writing."



1 SECTION 7. Section 291D-8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 **"§291D-8 Hearings.** (a) In proceedings to contest [~~the~~
4 ~~issuance of~~] a notice of traffic [~~infractions~~] infraction where
5 the person to whom the notice was issued has timely requested a
6 hearing and appears at such hearing:

7 (1) In lieu of the personal appearance by the officer who
8 issued the notice of traffic infraction, the court
9 shall consider the notice of traffic infraction and
10 any other written report made by the officer, if
11 provided to the court by the officer, together with
12 any oral or written statement by the [~~driver~~] person
13 to whom the notice of infraction was issued, or in the
14 case of traffic infractions involving parking[~~7~~] or
15 equipment, the operator or registered owner of the
16 motor vehicle;

17 (2) The court may compel by subpoena the attendance of the
18 officer who issued the notice of traffic infraction
19 and other witnesses from whom it may wish to hear;

20 (3) The standard of proof to be applied by the court shall
21 be whether, by a preponderance of the evidence [~~proves~~



1 ~~that~~, the court finds that the traffic infraction was
2 committed; and

- 3 (4) After due consideration of the evidence and arguments,
4 if any, the court shall determine whether commission
5 of the traffic infraction has been established. Where
6 the commission of the traffic infraction has not been
7 established, ~~[an order]~~ judgment in favor of the
8 defendant, dismissing the notice of traffic infraction
9 or any count therein with prejudice, shall be entered
10 in the ~~[records]~~ record. Where it has been
11 established that the traffic infraction was committed,
12 the court shall enter judgment ~~[for]~~ in favor of the
13 State and ~~[may]~~ shall assess a monetary assessment
14 pursuant to section 291D-9~~[-]~~, together with any fees,
15 surcharges, or costs. The court also shall inform the
16 person of the right to request~~[, within thirty days,]~~
17 a trial pursuant to section 291D-13. If the person
18 requests a trial at the time of the hearing, the court
19 shall provide the person with the trial date
20 ~~[forthwith. If trial is elected, arraignment and plea~~
21 ~~shall be held at the time of trial.]~~ as soon as
22 practicable.



1 (b) In proceedings to explain mitigating circumstances[+]
2 where the person to whom the notice of traffic infraction was
3 issued has timely requested a hearing and appears at such
4 hearing:

5 (1) The procedure [~~shall be informal and~~] shall be limited
6 to the issue of mitigating circumstances. A person
7 who requests to explain the circumstances shall not be
8 permitted to contest the [~~issuance of~~] the notice of
9 traffic infraction; [~~and~~]

10 (2) After the court has received the explanation, the
11 court shall enter judgment [~~for~~] in favor of the State
12 and may assess a monetary assessment[+] pursuant to
13 section 291D-9[+] and, together with any fees,
14 surcharges, or costs;

15 (3) The court, after receiving the explanation, may vacate
16 the admission and [~~dismiss~~] enter judgment in favor of
17 the defendant, dismissing the notice of traffic
18 infraction or any count therein with prejudice, where
19 the explanation establishes that the infraction was
20 not committed; and

21 (4) There shall be no appeal from the [~~order-~~] judgment.



1 (c) If a person for whom a hearing has been scheduled, to
2 contest the notice of traffic infraction or [~~a hearing~~] to
3 explain mitigating circumstances, fails to appear at the
4 hearing, the court shall enter judgment by default for the State
5 and take action as provided in section 291D-7(e). If the total
6 amount of the monetary assessment, fees, surcharges, or costs is
7 not paid within thirty days[7] of entry of default judgment, the
8 court shall take action as provided in section 291D-10."

9 SECTION 8. Section 291D-12, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
10 amended to read as follows:

11 **"§291D-12 Powers of the district court judge sitting in**
12 **the traffic division.** A district court judge sitting in the
13 traffic division and hearing cases pursuant to this chapter
14 shall have all the powers of a district court judge under
15 chapter 604, including the following powers:

16 (1) To conduct traffic infraction hearings and to impose
17 monetary assessments;

18 (2) To permit deferral of monetary assessment or impose
19 community service in lieu thereof;

20 (3) To dismiss a notice of traffic infraction, with or
21 without prejudice, or to set aside a judgment for the
22 State;



- 1 (4) To order temporary driver's license suspension or
2 driver's license reinstatement;
- 3 (5) To order the director of finance not to issue or renew
4 the driver's license, or to register, renew the
5 registration of, or issue title to a motor vehicle, of
6 any person who has not paid a monetary assessment
7 [~~or~~], has not performed community service in lieu
8 thereof[+], or has not otherwise satisfied a judgment
9 for the State entered pursuant to this chapter;
- 10 (6) To approve the issuance or renewal of a driver's
11 license or instruction permit pursuant to section
12 286-109(c);
- 13 (7) To issue penal summonses and bench warrants and
14 initiate contempt of court proceedings in proceedings
15 conducted pursuant to section 291D-13; [~~and~~]
- 16 (8) To issue penal summonses and bench warrants and
17 initiate failure to appear proceedings in proceedings
18 conducted pursuant to section 291D-5(d)(10); and
- 19 [~~+8~~] (9) To exercise other powers the court finds
20 necessary and appropriate to carry out the purposes of
21 this chapter."



1 SECTION 9. Section 291D-13, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 **"§291D-13 Trial~~[,]~~ and concurrent trial.** (a) There shall
4 be no right to trial unless the defendant contests the notice of
5 traffic infraction pursuant to section 291D-8. If, after
6 proceedings to contest the notice of traffic infraction, a
7 determination is made that ~~[a person]~~ the defendant committed
8 the traffic infraction, ~~[the person]~~ judgment shall enter in
9 favor of the State. The defendant may request~~[, within thirty~~
10 ~~days of the determination,]~~ a trial pursuant to the ~~[rules of~~
11 ~~penal procedure]~~ Hawaii rules of evidence and the rules of the
12 district court~~[, provided that arraignment and plea for such~~
13 ~~trial shall be held at the time of trial.];~~ provided that any
14 request for trial shall be made within thirty days of entry of
15 judgment. If, after appearing in person at a hearing to contest
16 the notice of traffic infraction, the person requests a trial at
17 the conclusion of the ~~[proceedings to contest the notice of~~
18 ~~traffic infraction,]~~ hearing, the court shall provide the person
19 with the trial date ~~[forthwith. A notice of traffic infraction~~
20 ~~shall not be adjudicated pursuant to this section until~~
21 ~~proceedings pursuant to section 291D-8 have been completed.]~~ as
22 soon as practicable.



1 (b) ~~[The result of the final determination or any~~
2 ~~admission made pursuant to section 291D-6 shall not be~~
3 ~~admissible in any trial conducted pursuant to section 291D-13.]~~

4 At the time of trial, the State shall be represented by a
5 prosecuting attorney of the county in which the infraction
6 occurred. The prosecuting attorney shall orally recite the
7 charged civil traffic infraction in court prior to commencement
8 of the trial. Proof of the defendant's commission of the
9 traffic infraction shall be by a preponderance of the evidence.

10 (c) If trial on the traffic infraction is held prior to
11 trial on any related criminal offense, the following shall be
12 inadmissible in the subsequent prosecution or trial of the
13 related criminal offense:

14 (1) Any written or oral statement made by the defendant in
15 proceedings conducted pursuant to section 291D-7(b);

16 and

17 (2) Any testimony given by the defendant in the traffic
18 infraction trial.

19 The statement or testimony, or both, shall not be deemed a
20 waiver of the defendant's privilege against self-incrimination
21 in connection with any related criminal offense.



1 (d) In any concurrent trial, the State shall be
2 represented by a prosecuting attorney of the county in which the
3 infraction and related crime occurred. Proof of the defendant's
4 commission of the infraction shall be by a preponderance of the
5 evidence, and proof of the related criminal offense shall be by
6 proof beyond a reasonable doubt. The concurrent trial shall be
7 conducted pursuant to the rules of the appropriate court, the
8 Hawaii rules of evidence, and the Hawaii rules of penal
9 procedure."

10 SECTION 10. Section 291D-14, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
11 amended to read as follows:

12 "[+]§291D-14[+] **Rules.** (a) The supreme court may adopt
13 rules of procedure for the conduct of all proceedings pursuant
14 to this chapter.

15 (b) Chapter 626 shall not apply in proceedings conducted
16 pursuant to this chapter, except for the rules governing
17 privileged communications, and proceedings conducted under
18 section 291D-13.

19 (c) Notwithstanding section 604-17, while the court is
20 sitting in any matter pursuant to this chapter, the court shall
21 not be required to preserve the testimony or proceedings, except
22 proceedings conducted pursuant to section 291D-13[-] and



1 proceedings in which the traffic infraction is heard on the same
2 date and time as any related criminal offense.

3 (d) The prosecuting attorney shall not participate in
4 traffic infraction proceedings conducted pursuant to this
5 chapter, except proceedings pursuant to section 291D-13[-] and
6 proceedings in which a related criminal offense is scheduled for
7 arraignment, hearing, or concurrent trial.

8 (e) Chapter 91 shall not apply in proceedings before the
9 court.

10 (f) Except as otherwise provided in section 291D-3,
11 chapter 571, and the Hawaii family court rules shall not apply
12 in any proceedings conducted pursuant to this chapter."

13 SECTION 11. Section 437D-17.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
14 amended to read as follows:

15 "[+]§437D-17.5[+] **Rental agreements; unpaid parking**
16 **citations.** Pursuant to section [~~291C-168.5,~~] 291D- , or other
17 sections of the law and except for summons, citations or
18 violations relating to the care and maintenance of a rental
19 motor vehicle, the lessor, as the registered owner of the rental
20 motor vehicle, may be responsible for fines [~~or~~], costs,
21 penalties, fees or other charges related to [parking
22 citations-] a motor vehicle while being leased or rented to a



1 lessee. The lessor may adopt a policy of charging the lessee
2 the actual [~~cost of the parking citation~~] amount paid to the
3 court plus an administrative fee not to exceed [~~\$20~~] out-of-
4 pocket expenses documentd by receipts plus up to four hours of
5 work multiplied by Hawaii's prevailing minimum wage relating to
6 research of files and communications with the court, county
7 government or governmental agencies and lessee; provided,
8 however, that every rental agreement of a lessor adopting the
9 policy must disclose, at a minimum, in plain language and in at
10 least ten-point bold typeface print:

- 11 (1) The maximum estimated amount of the administrative fee
12 to be charged; and
- 13 (2) Language encouraging the lessee to pay directly to the
14 court, county government or other appropriate
15 government agency the [~~parking citation directly.~~]
16 applicable fines, costs, penalties, fees or other
17 charges."

18 SECTION 12. Section 291-C, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
19 repealed.

20 [~~"[§291C-168.5]—Liability of lessee for parking citation.~~
21 Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, if the registered
22 owner of record is the lessor of a rental or U drive motor



1 ~~vehicle, as defined in section 286-2 pursuant to a written lease~~
2 ~~agreement, the lessee at the time of the issuance of the parking~~
3 ~~citation shall be responsible for such summons or citation;~~
4 ~~provided, however, said lessor shall be responsible for such~~
5 ~~summons or citation if the lessor does not provide the court~~
6 ~~having jurisdiction over the summons or citation the name and~~
7 ~~address of the lessee within forty five days after a notice~~
8 ~~containing the date, time, and location of the violation and the~~
9 ~~license number of the vehicle is sent to lessor; provided~~
10 ~~further that the administrative judge of the court having~~
11 ~~jurisdiction over the citation or summons may waive the~~
12 ~~requirement of providing the name and address of the lessee by~~
13 ~~the lessor and impose an administrative fee of five dollars per~~
14 ~~citation on the lessor."]~~

15 SECTION 13. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
16 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

17 SECTION 14. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2008.



REPORT Title:

Traffic Infractions; Concurrent Trial; Citation Form

Description:

Expands scope of traffic infractions law to include infractions committed by minors. Permits concurrent trials and clarifies requirements. Clarifies citation form requirements. Authorizes use of electronic citations. (SD2)

