



**Testimony to the Twenty -Fourth State Legislature, 2008 Session**

House Committee on Transportation  
The Honorable Joseph M. Souki, Chair  
The Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 6, 2008, 9:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

by  
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**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

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**Bill No. and Title:** House Bill No. 2343, Relating to Traffic Violations

**Purpose:** Authorizes a \$4 administrative fee on all citations for traffic code violations to be shared by the judiciary and the counties for the establishment and maintenance of an electronic citation system. Establishes the electronic citation system special fund. Provides for the disbursement of the funds to the counties and the judiciary.

**Judiciary's Position:**

The Judiciary supports the intent of House Bill No 2343 to establish an electronic citation system. Currently, motorists who would like to make prompt payment of their traffic ticket within a few days after the ticket, or citation, is issued using the Judiciary's online or interactive voice response system must wait until the ticket has been entered into the system, which may take 13 days or longer. Police officers have 10 days within which to file the paper citation with the court, and court staff may take three days or longer to manually enter the information into the court's system.

Assuming that the Honolulu Police Department's electronic citation system can interface with the Judiciary's traffic case management system, an electronic citation system would transmit citation information to the Judiciary much more timely and efficiently than the current practice of delivering the paper citations manually and entering the data manually. By significantly reducing the time the public has to wait before they can pay for their traffic tickets



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electronically, an electronic citation system will make it much easier for persons to pay their traffic ticket promptly.

On a technical note, we point out that this bill should include language to specify the funds disbursed to the Judiciary from this new fee should be incorporated into the Judiciary Computer Special Fund (HRS Section 601-3.7). Without this designation, the Judiciary would have no legal/fiscal means of spending the money received.

Further, assuming the most-likely scenario that the electronic citations will take time to fully implement, there will be an interim when a combination of paper and electronic citations must be utilized, which will require printing of new paper citations containing the new fee information. Therefore, we respectfully request an effective date of January 1, 2009 to allow time to (1) obtain statewide approval from district court administrative judges regarding the changes to the fee schedule, (2) print the new citations, and (3) notify internal operational staff and external agencies.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.