

# SB 664

RELATING TO HIGHWAY SAFETY.

Increases fines for persons who commit the offense of driving a motor vehicle at an excessive speed.



**Testimony by:**  
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IN REPLY REFER TO:

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

February 8, 2017  
2:00 p.m.  
State Capitol, Room 225

**S.B. NO. 664**  
**RELATING TO HIGHWAY SAFETY**

House Committee on Transportation

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The Department of Transportation (DOT) strongly **supports** S.B. 664 relating to highway safety. This bill increases the fines for persons who commit the offense of driving a motor vehicle at an excessive speed.

Speeding continues to be a significant factor for serious traffic crashes and fatalities. The speed in which a vehicle travels will often determine the severity of the injuries and damages. The higher the speed, the more severe the injury and damages. Many crashes are the results of speeding in which the operator loses control of the vehicle and often results in the death of the drivers and/or others. In a five-year period, 2011 through 2015, there were 222 fatal crashes that resulted in 236 deaths due to speeding.

The DOT urges your support in passing S.B. 664. Increasing the fines for this violation will deter the behavior of drivers from speeding and will save lives and reduce injuries.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY  
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**THE HONORABLE LORRAINE R. INOUE, CHAIR**  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION**  
**Twenty-Ninth State Legislature**  
**Regular Session of 2017**  
**State of Hawai`i**

February 8, 2017

**RE: S.B. 664; RELATING TO HIGHWAY SAFETY.**

Chair Inouye, Vice-Chair Dela Cruz and members of the Senate Committee on Transportation, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City & County of Honolulu (“Department”) submits the following testimony in opposition to S.B. 664.

The purpose of S.B. 664 is to increase the fines for excessive speeding, from \$500 to a range of \$1,500 to \$3,000.

While we understand there are significant potential dangers and risks associated with this type of behavior, we do not believe that higher fines are necessarily the answer to deterring or educating the public about this. Based on our experience, we anticipate that the proposed increase—between three (3) to six (6) times the current fine for this offense—would force a lot more cases to trial, which would add more congestion to the current voluminous caseloads at District Court, and potentially overwhelm the courts and our Department’s resources. Notably, for these particular violations (section 291C-105, Hawaii Revised Statutes), it has been our observation that the fine is actually less of a deterrent than the “SR-22” insurance repercussions that this type of conviction will necessitate. Although outside of our area of expertise, the SR-22 apparently has long-lasting effects that are particularly dreaded by most traffic offense defendants.

For all of the foregoing reasons, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu opposes the passage of S.B. 664. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2017 3:17 PM  
**To:** TRE Testimony  
**Cc:** victor.ramos@mpd.net  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB664 on Feb 8, 2017 14:00PM\*

**SB664**

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for TRE on Feb 8, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 225

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Victor K. Ramos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**To:** TRE Testimony  
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**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB664 on Feb 8, 2017 14:00PM\*

**SB664**

Submitted on: 2/4/2017

Testimony for TRE on Feb 8, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 225

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
James Gauer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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