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**THE HONORABLE HENRY AQUINO, CHAIR
THE HONORABLE TROY N. HASHIMOTO, VICE CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
Thirtieth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2020
State of Hawai'i**

February 5, 2020

RE: H.B. 2750; RELATING TO MONETARY OBLIGATIONS.

Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Hashimoto, and members of the House Committee on Transportation, the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Kaua'i submits the following testimony in support of H.B. 2750.

The purpose of H.B. 2750 is to prohibit the imposition of restrictions on a person's ability to obtain or renew a driver's license or to register, renew the registration of, or transfer or receive title to a motor vehicle, as a consequence of unpaid monetary obligations. It does not affect driver's license suspensions related to excessive speeding, lack of motor vehicle insurance, or non-compliance with a child support order.

Unpaid court debt resulting in license stoppers results in countless citations and arrests for driving without a license. This results in a significant portion of the criminal caseload of the District and Circuit Courts in Hawai'i and absorbs substantial resources of prosecutors and public defenders statewide with little to no benefit to public safety. The practice of imposing license stoppers for failure to pay court debt also does not result in the debt being paid, it results in defendants incurring more court debt which they cannot pay, because they cannot drive, because they cannot work, etc. Particularly in rural or suburban communities like Kaua'i, it is virtually impossible to survive without driving a motor vehicle. Defendants become trapped in a vicious cycle. Courts, prosecutors, and public defenders have limited resources that can be put to better use addressing cases that impact public safety.

This Bill also recognizes that some license stoppers are imposed to address valid safety and public policy concerns; that is appropriate.

For these reasons, the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney supports the passage of H.B. 2750. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

STATE OF HAWAI‘I
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

**Testimony of the Office of the Public Defender,
State of Hawai‘i to the House Committee on Transportation**

February 4, 2020

H.B. No. 2750: RELATING TO MONETARY OBLIGATIONS

Hearing: February 5, 2020, 10:15 a.m.

Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Hashimoto, and Members of the Committee:

The Office of the Public Defender strongly supports the changes proposed by HB 2750. Our support for this bill is threefold: (1) It will reduce the number of Hawai‘i residents criminalized due to poverty; (2) It will reduce the burden on our office’s District Court staff; and (3) It will reduce the overwhelmingly large traffic calendars in District Court.

Our office has seen firsthand how license stoppers can disrupt the lives of otherwise law-abiding residents. When money is tight, a resident might have to choose between paying the rent or paying several hundred dollars to register their vehicle. With a lapsed registration, the resident is also unable to update their safety check, even if their car is in perfectly working order. This resident still needs to be able to get to work, often to more than one job, and take the kids to school while they save up the money to pay for the registration, the safety check, and the late fees that will attach. While driving to work one day, the resident is pulled over due to their expired stickers, and suddenly they find themselves with a citation for another couple hundred of dollars, which they are also unable to pay. Thirty days later, the fine is sent to a collections agency on the mainland, and a stopper is placed on to the resident’s license. As long as the stopper is in place, the resident will be unable to legally register their car to themselves. In practical terms, this often means that the resident will continue to pick up similar citations while they are saving up to pay the first citation. This resident could save up money for months to pay off their delinquent registration, safety check, and court fines, only to discover that they do not have the money to cover the interest charged by the collections agency. Finally, the resident’s driver’s license expires, and the next time that they are pulled over for expired stickers, they receive a criminal citation for Driving Without a Valid License (“DWOL”).

This is the story that our District Court attorneys hear time and time again during intake interviews with our clients. By the time clients reach us, it is too late for us to give them the advice that might have helped them avoid falling into this situation. The vast majority of our DWOL clients have no other non-traffic charges. If it were not for their financial difficulties, these clients would never have to risk having a damaging criminal conviction on their records. With each additional DWOL citation, the fines grow higher, and the chances of those clients being able to claw their way back into the black grow dimmer. Our office is prohibited from assisting with non-jailable offenses, so

our only recourse with most clients is to refer them to a non-profit group for assistance converting unpaid infractions to community service work. We have no capacity to follow up these referrals, and we often find that our office turns into a revolving door for our DWOL clients.

The one exception to that rule is in Honolulu Community Outreach Court, where our office is able to partner with the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney and the Judiciary to cut through the red tape for individuals at risk of or currently experiencing houselessness. Unfortunately, the working poor who are barely able to make ends meet do not qualify for entry to this program. This means their cases end up on the traffic court calendar, which is severely overcrowded. For example, the Honolulu District Court morning traffic calendar that will be handled at the same time as the hearing for this bill on February 5, 2020 currently has fifty-five cases listed, forty of which involve the offense of DWOL. The afternoon calendar has twenty-two cases, eleven of which involve DWOL. This calendar should be dedicated to traffic crimes such as Excessive Speeding, Reckless Driving, and Leaving the Scene of an Accident, but instead, the majority of these cases involve residents with no serious moving violations.

Something has got to give. We live in the State with the lowest minimum wage when adjusted for our high cost of living. Residents working multiple jobs can barely afford to pay their rent and feed their families, yet we're treating them like criminals due to unpaid fees. The Office of the Public Defender is strongly in support of re-thinking this regressive system and finding a way to move forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on H.B. No. 2750.



The Judiciary, State of Hawai‘i

Testimony to the House Committee on Transportation

Representative Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair

Representative Troy N. Hashimoto, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 5, 2020, 10:00 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 423

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

by

Calvin C. Ching

Deputy Chief Court Administrator

First Circuit

Bill No. and Title: House Bill No, 2750, Relating to Monetary Obligations.

Purpose: Prohibits the imposition of restrictions on a person’s ability to obtain or renew a driver’s license or to register, renew the registration of, or transfer or receive title to a motor vehicle, as a consequence of unpaid monetary obligations. Does not affect driver’s license suspensions related to excessive speeding, lack of motor vehicle insurance, or non-compliance with a child support order. The Judiciary takes no position as to the merits of this bill, but notes that significant funding and resources would be required for implementation. In the event that funds cannot be allocated, the Judiciary opposes this measure as it would create a burden on existing operations.

Judiciary’s Position:

The Judiciary notes that the issue at the heart of this bill -- creating alternatives for resolution of traffic infractions and lifting license and registration stoppers so that persons of limited financial means are not precluded from driving -- was explored and discussed in depth by the Final Report of the Financial Hardship Task Force to the Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawai‘i. Many of the task force recommendations appear to be covered by other proposed bills, such as HB2751 (relating to financial hardship). The Judiciary suggests that the alternatives proposed by HB2751 be examined to determine whether they might achieve better results at a lower cost in a shorter timeframe.



House Bill No. 2750, Relating to Monetary Obligations
House Committee on Transportation
Wednesday, February 5, 2020
Page 2

First, section 10 of the proposed bill renders all prior license and registration stoppers arising out of traffic infractions (including parking citations) void and unenforceable. At present, there are tens of thousands of cases with license and/or registration stoppers that arose out of traffic infractions. The retroactive nature of the bill would require the Judiciary to identify these cases, prepare and file orders in each case, and transmit the orders to the appropriate county agencies. Given that processing a single request to clear a single license stopper requires action by traffic violations bureau staff, a district court clerk, a judge, a fiscal officer, and courtroom staff (in those cases where a hearing may be necessary), additional personnel positions would need to be created in order to implement the monumental action contemplated by this bill. If funds for such positions cannot be appropriated by the Legislature at this time, the Judiciary respectfully requests that section 10 be deferred.

Second, section 10 of the proposed bill directs the Judiciary to work with the counties to identify affected individuals and to take any further action necessary to effectuate the bill. While the Judiciary is willing to do so, it notes that implementation would therefore appear to require a similar increase in the personnel at the respective county agencies. Put another way, even if the courts were to issue orders for each of the cases listed above, the agencies with authority to issue driver licenses and vehicle registrations may not have the current capacity to immediately lift the stoppers referenced in those orders.

If this bill is not deferred, the Judiciary respectfully requests that the effective date be extended to give the Judiciary ample time to hire and train the additional personnel that will be needed for implementation. Alternatively, the Judiciary respectfully requests that section 10 be deleted.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Committee: Committee on Transportation
Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday, February 5, 2020, 10:15 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 423
Re: *Testimony of the ACLU of Hawai'i in support of H.B. 2750, Relating to Monetary Obligations*

Dear Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Hashimoto, and Committee Members:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii (ACLU of Hawai'i) writes **in support of H.B. 2750**, a bill to end the counterproductive practice of driver's license and motor vehicle registration stoppers. H.B. 2750 will save the state money, increase the number of insured drivers, and end a harmful practice that pushes vulnerable communities into poverty.

Stoppers are ineffective and disproportionately burden Hawai'i's working poor. Roughly half of Hawai'i's families struggle to meet basic needs.¹ A recent study found that four in ten adults do not have access to \$400 at any given time, making them one emergency—or court fine—away from financial ruin.² License and registration stoppers, which prevent a person from obtaining or renewing their license or registration until they pay outstanding traffic or parking tickets, unfairly punish this population, who stand to lose much more than just their ability to drive. Since the vast majority of Hawai'i's workforce drives to work,³ losing your license can often mean losing your job, or being unable to take your kids to school or to the doctor. This disproportionately impacts Native Hawaiians, who are more likely than their white counterparts to live in poverty and therefore less likely to be able to afford an unanticipated expense.⁴ While courts may consider ability to pay, the burden is on motorists to request this and it is the understanding of the ACLU of Hawai'i that this option is not often utilized; even when an adjustment is requested, the decision of whether to do so is purely at the discretion of the court and there is no set formula for a fine adjustment.

Recognizing the burden imposed by stoppers, a growing body of scholarship condemns the practice.⁵ Many states are considering or have already enacted reforms similar to H.B. 2750.⁶ The American

¹ ALICE, a Study of Financial Hardship in Hawai'i, 2017 Report. Aloha United Way (2017).

² Bd. of Governors of the Fed. Reserve Sys., Report on the Economic Well-Being of U.S. Households in 2017 at 2 (May 2018), <https://www.federalreserve.gov/publications/files/2017-report-economic-well-being-us-households-201805.pdf>.

³ U.S. Census Bureau, 2018. American Community Survey, *Hawaii 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles*.

⁴ U.S. Census Bureau, 2018. 2017 American Community Survey, *1-Year Estimates*.

⁵ See, e.g. Danielle Conley and Ariel Levinson-Waldman, *Discriminatory Driver's License Suspension Schemes*, American Constitution Society (March 2019).

⁶ This year, Illinois ended license suspensions for unpaid parking tickets. In 2019, Montana ended license suspensions for unpaid court debt. In 2018, Idaho passed a law ending license suspensions for

Bar Association recently denounced the use of license revocations for nonpayment and instead recommends proportionate income-based fines.⁷

License and registration stoppers do not work. According to a Washington Post study, 204,067 Hawai'i drivers had stoppers on their record in 2017, or roughly 18% of the state's driving age population in that year.⁸ Over half of these cases were already in collections at the time of the study. These high numbers suggest that the problem is not willful nonpayment, but rather, an inability to pay. Stoppers, then, will never be an effective solution because they do not cure the motorist's inability to afford to pay their ticket.

License and registration stoppers are not only ineffective—they're counterproductive. As we've found in other jurisdictions, Hawaii's system of license and registration stoppers only makes it *more* difficult for people to pay their traffic and parking fines. The main reason for this is clear: revoking a person's ability to drive cuts out their primary mode of transportation to get to the job that will allow them to earn money to pay their ticket. This is especially true for residents in rural areas and on neighbor islands, where public transportation is generally less available. While restricted licenses *may* be granted, eligibility criteria are strict and do not include transportation outside of what is required to work, such as taking your child to the doctor. It is no wonder that the lack of legal ability to drive has been found to have a strong correlation to unemployment or underemployment.⁹

Worse still, after a certain amount of time, people must pay not only the full amount of the ticket, but a hefty surcharge to the Texas-based private collection agency as well.¹⁰ This makes it even *less* likely that they will be able to afford to lift their stopper.

H.B. 2750 will increase the number of insured motorists. Stoppers make it impossible for a person to obtain motor vehicle insurance. This is true for most private auto insurers, and though Hawai'i offers no-fault insurance for low-income drivers, motorists who would otherwise meet the

unpaid court fines and fees, and decriminalizing driving on a suspended license. In 2017, California ended license suspensions for unpaid traffic fines. New York and Colorado are both considering similar legislation this year.

⁷ *ABA Ten Guidelines on Court Fines and Fees*, American Bar Association (August 2018), available at <https://finesandfeesjusticecenter.org/content/uploads/2018/12/Ten-Guidelines-on-Court-Fines-and-Fees.pdf>.

⁸ Justin Wm. Moyer, *More than 7 million people may have lost driver's licenses because of traffic debt*, Washington Post (May 19, 2018), https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/public-safety/more-than-7-million-people-may-have-lost-drivers-licenses-because-of-traffic-debt/2018/05/19/97678c08-5785-11e8-b656-a5f8c2a9295d_story.html#comments-wrapper.

⁹ Conley and Levinson-Waldman, *supra*.

¹⁰ If you fail to pay within 90 days (for judgments of \$500 or less) or 180 days (\$500 or more), your case is sent to collections. HCTR Rule 20(C). Once the case goes to collections, you no longer have the option of making a payment to the court, and *must* pay the total amount owed, plus an additional **twenty-one percent** as a fee to the agency.

eligibility requirements but who have an expired license or registration due to a stopper cannot qualify for the state program.¹¹ This exposes other motorists to liability.

Stoppers act as a funnel into the criminal legal system. The ACLU of Hawai‘i has heard from public defenders across the state that much of their workload involves cases of driving without a license after a stopper had been placed on the defendant’s record for an unpaid ticket. Many people will be forced into an impossible choice between driving illegally and losing their job, and many will make the desperate choice to continue driving, a traffic crime punishable by up to a \$1,000 fine or up to one year in jail.¹² This potentially life-ruining consequence pulls families deeper into poverty and wastes taxpayer money prosecuting and defending criminal cases that stem from these stoppers. Other jurisdictions have found that the money spent enforcing unpaid tickets exceeded the value of the debt itself.

Hawaii’s system of license stoppers may be unconstitutional. In late 2019, the national American Civil Liberties Union, alongside ACLU of South Carolina, Southern Poverty Law Center, Terrell Marshall Law Group PLLC, and the South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center filed a federal lawsuit challenging South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles’ policy of automatically suspending the drive’s licenses of people who cannot afford their traffic tickets.¹³ The lawsuit argues that these suspension schemes violate an individual’s rights to Equal Protection and Due Process under the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution, which require an ability-to-pay consideration before an individual is punished for an unpaid fine. Similar constitutional challenges have been filed in Michigan, Montana, Tennessee, Virginia, and Oregon.

For the above reasons, the ACLU of Hawai‘i respectfully requests that your Committee support this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Mandy Fernandes
Policy Director
ACLU of Hawai‘i

The mission of the ACLU of Hawai‘i is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions. The ACLU of Hawai‘i fulfills this through legislative, litigation, and public education programs statewide. The ACLU of Hawai‘i is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawai‘i has been serving Hawai‘i for over 50 years.

¹¹ H.A.R. §17-654-3.

¹² H.R.S. § 286-136.

¹³ See complaint, *White v. Shwedo* (D.S.C., filed Oct. 30, 2019).



House Committee on Transportation

Weds, February 5, 2020, 10:15 a.m., Conference Room 423

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Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action strongly supports: HB 2750

Aloha Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Hashimoto and members of the committee,

I am submitting testimony on behalf of the Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) in strong support of HB 2750 which prohibits the imposition of restrictions on a person's ability to obtain or renew a driver's license or to register, renew the registration of, or transfer or receive title to a motor vehicle, as a consequence of unpaid monetary obligations.

HAPA is a statewide environmental, social and economic justice organization that engages over 10,000 local residents annually through our work.

If a person cannot afford to pay their traffic or parking ticket, they will still be too poor to pay it if you take away their license. The stopper system makes it harder for people to pay, funnels people into the criminal legal system who pose zero threat to public safety, and wastes taxpayer money.

- Stoppers make it impossible for a person to obtain valid auto insurance. This increases liability for everyone else on the road.
- Removing a person's ability to drive makes it harder for them to take their children to school, transport themselves or their family members to the doctor, shop for groceries for their family, and, of course, get to work.
- 67% of Hawaii's workers drive alone to their jobs, and another 14% carpool. Hawaii's workforce relies on their ability to drive to and from work.
- Stoppers greatly impact rural communities and the neighbor islands where public transportation is generally less available.
- Restricted licenses may be granted to allow people to commute to and from work, but eligibility criteria are strict and don't include transportation outside of what is required to work, such as taking your child to the doctor.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', is written below the text 'Respectfully,'.

Anne Frederick, Executive Director

HB-2750

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 2:51:50 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/5/2020 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Golojuch Jr	LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Hashimoto and Committee Members,

The LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i stands in full support of the passage of Senate Bill 2750.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.

Chair

LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i



Pono Hawai'i Initiative

Josh Frost - President • Patrick Shea - Treasurer • Kristin Hamada
Nelson Ho • Summer Starr

Tuesday, February 4, 2020

Relating to Monetary Obligations
Testifying in Support

Aloha Chair and members of the committee,

The Pono Hawai'i Initiative (PHI) **supports HB2750 Relating to Monetary Obligations**, which prohibits monetary fines from restricting a person's ability from renewing or obtaining your driver's license or car registration; commonly referred to as "stoppers".

These "stoppers" end to create roadblocks for low-income individuals and can lead to further financial issues because of the inability to get a job without legal identification or get to a job without means of transportation. Several states have already enacted reforms to repeal this practice. Let's remove these "stoppers" and unnecessary punishments on our low-income community.

For all these reasons, we urge you to move this bill forward.

Mahalo for the opportunity,
Gary Hooser
Executive Director
Pono Hawai'i Initiative



Young Progressives Demanding Action
P.O. Box 11105
Honolulu, HI 96828

February 4, 2020

TO: House Committee on Transportation
RE: Testimony in support of HB2750

Dear Representatives,

Young Progressives Demanding Action (YPDA) advocates for sound public policies that not only reflect the values of young people throughout the State of Hawai'i, but also that remove unnecessary barriers that keep people trapped in the cycle of poverty. So-called "stoppers"—holds put on driving or vehicle records that prevent the obtaining or renewing of a drivers' license or car registration until traffic tickets are paid—do exactly that.

If a person cannot afford to pay their traffic or parking ticket, what makes us believe that taking away their ability to drive will improve the likelihood that they pay? For many hardworking Hawai'i locals, especially those unable to afford the expenses of urban Honolulu, the ability to drive is critical for getting to work. Taking that away over relatively minor traffic infractions ends up further impoverishing working families and funneling people through the criminal legal system, wasting taxpayer money.

Roughly 18 percent of Hawai'i's driving-age population had a license stopper on their driving record in October of 2017. More than half of these had already been sent to collections when this data was collected. If stoppers were effective in incentivizing payment, these cases would never go to collections.

This bill does not affect license suspensions imposed as penalties for an actual criminal offense or for failure to pay child support. The bill only eliminates license stoppers imposed for failure to pay traffic tickets. On the other hand, if we do nothing to address this issue, many people will be forced into the impossible choice of either driving illegally or losing their job. Ask yourself: what would you do? Most people would choose to continue driving.

Public defenders across the state have told the ACLU of Hawai'i that much of their workload involves cases of driving without a valid license after having a stopper placed on the defendant's record for an unpaid ticket. Driving without a license carries a fine of up to \$1,000 or up to one year in jail for subsequent offenses. H.R.S. § 286-136. We are effectively criminalizing poverty—and no one benefits.

While exact numbers are not publicly available for the state, other jurisdictions have found that they spend far more trying to collect on court debt than the debt was worth to begin with.

Our society has an obsession with punishment, but it is usually reserved for the poor. Half of Hawai'i's households are living paycheck to paycheck. Nationally, 40 percent of adults have less than \$400 accessible at any given time, putting them one emergency away from homelessness every day. "Stoppers" create the potential for just the kind of financial emergency that can send a family into a tailspin, and for no good reason.

Please pass HB2750.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Will Caron
2019–2020 Co-Chair
Action@YPDAhawaii.org

HB-2750

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 3:41:18 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/5/2020 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sandra Fujita	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB2750. Stoppers will not do anything beneficial, they will only increase monetary burdens carried by the poorest among us. Punitive stoppers will only make it more difficult for the rest of us. We will see an increase in unlicensed drivers, for one example.

HB-2750

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 6:40:01 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/5/2020 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Hauff	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Robert Hauff and I'm in strong support of HB2750. If a person can't afford to pay their traffic or parking ticket, they will still be too poor to pay it if you take away their license. This will perpetuate poverty in our islands. The stopper system funnels people into the criminal legal system who pose zero threat to public safety, and wastes taxpayer money. Please vote YES in support of HB2750. Thank you for the opportunity to testify

HB-2750

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 3:09:55 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/5/2020 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Heaney	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha nui loa,

my name is Mary Heaney and I'm in strong support of HB2750. I believe if a person can't afford to pay their traffic or parking ticket, they will still be too poor to pay it if you take away their license. The stopper system makes it harder for people to pay, funnels people into the criminal legal system who pose zero threat to public safety, and wastes taxpayer money. Please vote YES in support of HB2750. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Mary Heaney

HB-2750

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 9:32:57 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/5/2020 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jen Jenkins	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2750

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 8:07:31 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/5/2020 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Lacques	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2750

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 4:25:27 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/5/2020 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Edwin Lesperance	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

“Aloha, my name is Edwin Lesperance and I’m in strong support of HB2750. I believe if a person can’t afford to pay their traffic or parking ticket, they will still be too poor to pay it if you take away their license. The stopper system makes it harder for people to pay, funnels people into the criminal legal system who pose zero threat to public safety, and wastes taxpayer money. Please vote YES in support of HB2750. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.”

HB-2750

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 4:18:02 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/5/2020 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo and I'm in strong support of HB2750. I believe if a person can't afford to pay their traffic or parking ticket, they will still be too poor to pay it if you take away their license. The stopper system makes it harder for people to pay, funnels people into the criminal legal system who pose zero threat to public safety, and wastes taxpayer money. Please vote YES in support of HB2750. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

me ke aloha 'Ä• ina,

Nanea Lo

HB-2750

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 10:08:44 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/5/2020 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Judith A Mick	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this bill and relieve these undo pressure on our residents. Mahalo

Judy Mick, Kailua

HB-2750

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 9:14:06 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/5/2020 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sarah Preble	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill. Let's put fewer people into the criminal justice system.

Please vote YES in support of HB2750.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sarah Preble

HB-2750

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 8:55:03 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/5/2020 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Ruiz	ACLU Volunteer	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Jennifer Ruiz and I'm in strong support of HB2750. I believe if a person can't afford to pay their traffic or parking ticket, they will still be too poor to pay it if you take away their license. I am testifying as a volunteer with the ACLU and also as an individual citizen. I have been doing court monitoring on behalf of the ACLU since late August and I have seen how difficult the stopper system is on those who are already in a difficult situation in life and have no financial means to pay for fines related to traffic infractions. There have been defendants who have to opt for jail time in lieu of the court fine because they have no way to even cover a court fine of \$50. And many of the other traffic related infractions where drivers license were suspended these were people trying their best to go to work, complete certain substance treatment, and just get their life back on track.

The stopper system makes it harder for people to pay, funnels people into the criminal legal system who pose zero threat to public safety, and wastes taxpayer money. I understand there are those who believe people should be held accountable at all costs but by doing that we further marginalize those here in Hawai'i that are disenfranchized. Which results in more harm than good. Please vote YES in support of HB2750.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2750

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 8:02:33 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/5/2020 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jun Shin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Jun Shin and I'm in **strong support** of HB2750. I believe if a person can't afford to pay their traffic or parking ticket, they will still be too poor to pay it if you take away their license. The stopper system makes it harder for people to pay, funnels people into the criminal legal system who pose zero threat to public safety, and wastes taxpayer money. Please **vote YES in support of HB2750**. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Its an important need for families

LATE

HB-2750

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 5:10:27 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/5/2020 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Staley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HB 2750, which would repeal counterproductive driver's license and vehicle registration "stoppers," which are imposed for failure to pay traffic or parking tickets. License "stoppers" are a barrier to houseless persons seeking and/or maintaining employment. I myself was unable to renew my driver's license in 2019 due to a jaywalking ticket from 2016 that went unpaid. I was required to pay the fine before my license could be renewed, and once the fine was paid, the soonest appointment I could make with the DMV was 3 months past my renewal date. I tried to drive sparingly but could not completely avoid driving illegally during that time. I am lucky that I wasn't pulled over and didn't incur more serious consequences for having to drive illegally due to these kinds of flaws in our system.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

HB-2750

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 6:08:32 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/5/2020 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dawn Morais Webster Ph.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Stoppers affect an alarming number of people and they end up entangling people in the criminal legal system who do not pose a threat to public safety. This is one more burden on the poor that they can ill afford. Please repeal these counterproductive driver's license and vehicle registration "stoppers," which are imposed for failure to pay traffic or parking tickets.

Please note: This bill would **not** touch license suspensions imposed as punishment for an underlying offense, like for DUIs, or for failure to pay child support.

This bill just keeps us from further punishing poor working people who are not a danger to society. They need their licenses to get to work--and that often means to more than one job just to survive in this expensive state.

We need to fight poverty, not further shackle the poor.

Thank you for moving this forward.