



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE, 2020**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. NO. 2851, RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT VEHICLES.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND
MILITARY AFFAIRS

DATE: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 **TIME:** 1:35 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 229

TESTIFIER(S): Clare E. Connors, Attorney General, or
Lance Goto, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General (the Department) supports this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to allow the Department to have law enforcement vehicles, with colored lights, that are recognized authorized emergency vehicles under the law, by amending sections 291-31.5(a), 291C-1, and 291C-27(b), Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS).

This bill is part of the Administration package for 2020. Under chapter 28, HRS, the Attorney General is tasked with the responsibilities to investigate and prosecute violations of law. Investigators with the Department have all the powers and authority of a police officer or a deputy sheriff. Despite the law enforcement responsibility and authority, the department does not have the official and explicit authority to use law enforcement vehicles with emergency response lights.

While law enforcement officers with the Attorney General are primarily investigators, they are also emergency responders that require the use of properly equipped emergency vehicles. The Investigations Division has been the lead state agency in addressing projected major civil disorders. It is also required to respond in times of natural disasters in both emergency and law enforcement capacities. It needs emergency vehicles to respond to incident scenes and assist other law enforcement officers.

This bill will provide the department with emergency vehicle capability, which has already been granted to the county police, the Department of Public Safety, and the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

The Department respectfully requests the passage of this bill.

SB-2851

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 11:55:01 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2020 1:35:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Victor K. Ramos	Testifying for Maui Police Department	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2851

Submitted on: 2/9/2020 10:28:29 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2020 1:35:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Urasaki	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Im confused by the actions of the AG. They do not want to issue concealed carry permits, and take no responsibility in law enforcement, and yet they want police cars?