

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



**TESTIMONY BY:**

JADE T. BUTAY  
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors  
LYNN A.S. ARAKI-REGAN  
DEREK J. CHOW  
ROSS M. HIGASHI  
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN

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

February 2, 2021  
3:00 P.M.  
State Capitol, Teleconference

**S.B. 667**  
**RELATING TO LICENSE PLATES**

Senate Committee on Transportation

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The Department of Transportation (DOT) **opposes** S.B. 667, which requires the director of finance to furnish to an owner of a vehicle one, rather than two, number plates for the vehicle.

Eliminating the need for two license plates will hamper the police departments' traffic enforcement efforts as well as the DOT's Red Light Running pilot project.

Hawaii's Vision Zero goal is to eliminate all traffic deaths and serious injuries. Reducing enforcement efforts will make it more difficult to reach the goal of making Hawaii a safer place for all roadway users.

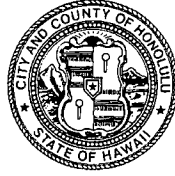
Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICES  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

MISSION MEMORIAL BUILDING  
550 SOUTH KING STREET, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-3392 FAX: (808) 768-1591  
<http://www.honolulu.gov>

**LATE**

RICK BLANGIARDI  
MAYOR



NOLA MIYASAKI  
DIRECTOR DESIGNATE

February 2, 2021

The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair  
The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair  
And Members of the Committee on Transportation  
The State Senate  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Lee and Members of the Committee on Transportation

SUBJECT: S.B. No. 667 – Relating to License Plates

The City and County of Honolulu, Department of Customer Services (CSD) is in **support** of S.B. No. 667.

This bill authorizes the counties to issue an owner of a vehicle one number plate for the vehicle rather than two.

The implementation of this bill will reduce the counties' expense to purchase the plates by 50% and reduce our storage requirements for storage.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on S.B. No. 667.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nola N. Miyasaki". The signature is written in a cursive style.

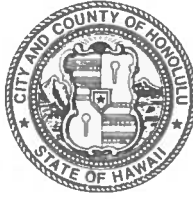
Nola N. Miyasaki  
Director Designate

POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET · HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
TELEPHONE: (808) 529-3111 · INTERNET: www.honolulu.police.org

**LATE**

RICK BLANGIARDI  
MAYOR



SUSAN BALLARD  
CHIEF

JOHN D. MCCARTHY  
AARON TAKASAKI-YOUNG  
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE CT-LC

February 2, 2021

The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair  
and Members  
Committee on Transportation  
State Senate  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 224  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Lee and Members:

SUBJECT: Senate Bill No. 667, Relating to License Plates

I am Calvin Tong, Major of the Traffic Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD opposes Senate Bill No. 667, Relating to License Plates.

The elimination of the requirement for a front or rear license plate decreases our ability to identify vehicles involved in criminal activity by one-half. Some of our leads are based on the identification of a suspect vehicle using the front or rear license plate. A few examples of these cases are the many pedestrians who only see the front license plate before being struck or fled scene crashes where the suspect vehicle's plate fell off from the vehicle upon impact. If there were no witnesses to the collision, the elimination of one license plate would remove another tool to aid us in identifying a suspect.

Additionally, the absence of the front or rear license plate gives our officers probable cause to effect a traffic stop. These traffic stops in turn usually lead to other criminal activity involvement, such as a stolen vehicle.

The front license plate is used as a reflective material for speed laser devices used during speed enforcement. Eliminating the front license plate will also affect our current and future projects such as the Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) and the Red Light Enforcement cameras. The full capability of the ALPR is its ability to read

The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair  
and Members  
February 2, 2021  
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license plates coming towards and away from the officer's vehicle. We would lose 50 percent of the recoverable data without a front license plate.

There are currently 31 states that require front license plates, and the public's opposition to it is purely aesthetic. Owners of high-end and classic cars feel that the front plate detracts from the vehicle's appearance.

The HPD urges you to oppose Senate Bill No. 667, Relating to License Plates, and we appreciate the committee's consideration of these concerns.

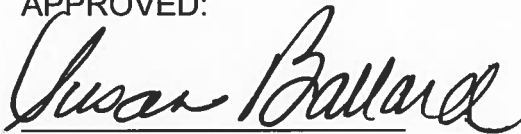
Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Calvin Tong, Major  
Traffic Division

APPROVED:



Susan Ballard  
Chief of Police

**LATE**

**SB-667**

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 10:54:32 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/2/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Val Valdez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Front license plates obstruct cooling passages on most vehicles before 2005. We already have tons of traffic and hot weather so we need all the normal cooling for our older affordable vehicles. Also officers always approach vehicles from the rear.

**SB-667**

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 12:52:26 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/2/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ryan Christopher	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill. The front plate is pointless and the state can save money not producing them.

**LATE**

**SB-667**

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 1:28:50 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/2/2021 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support the request to legalize Hawaii to 1 vehicle license plate rather than 2. Front license plates are damaging to cars and causes a decrease in the vehicles value. It is most common for front license plates to deteriorate around the edges of the screws causing the front plate to fall off. If that happens, plates need to be replaced and possibly new damages to the vehicle to re install new plates. The back license plate is the strongest and therefore should be the only one required. If needed, an officer is most likely to be behind a suspected vehicle thus only needing to see the back license plate. Although 2 plates are additional assistance in order to help identify a vehicle if stolen for example, doesnt necessarily mean that the plates are accurate for that specific vehicle. Most stolen vehicles get their plates swapped for fakes, defeating the purpose of having 2 plates. Please take into consideration someone who values their car and doesnt want to add damages to it when looking over this bill. A lot of individuals take pride in being able to keep a car in the most pristine condition. Not having to be required a front licence plate will help a lot of car owners do so.

**LATE**

**SB-667**

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 1:33:56 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/2/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ryan Nahl	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I think one plate is good enough because most of the important information for your vehicle is located on the rear. Safety checks and registration tags are all located on the rear of the vehicle. The front plate doesn't really serve a purpose, only the person in front of you or passing can read the front plate and it's not very visible. The state could save money for issuing one plate for vehicle. And some cars like mines don't come with holes in the front bumper from the factory, and the dealership just drilled some in. My car looks 100 times better with no front plate either.

Sincerely, Ryan Nahl