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S.B. No. 2308, SD1: RELATING TO SPEEDING

Chair Chris Todd  
Vice Chair Darius K. Kila  
Honorable Committee Members

The Office of the Public Defender **opposes** this bill.

This bill increases the fines and penalties for speeding in a school zone based on an unnamed 2022 study revealing that Hawai'i has some of the poorest drivers in the country. The study does not suggest that increasing penalties will change that. In fact, more severe penalties and revoking a driver's license may only create more unlicensed drivers and may do little to keep our streets safer.

Accidents and collisions can happen even at safe speeds and with people who are unlicensed. Heftier fines will only result in higher expenses to collect and enforce these fines. Indigent drivers are less likely to pay and will only burden an already overwhelmed traffic court system. The better way to keep streets safer is to create buffer zones for pedestrians and vehicles, not increase penalties for speeding.



**TESTIMONY BY:**  
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**STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | KA 'OIHANA ALAKAU  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
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March 14, 2024  
10:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Room 312

**S.B. 2308, S.D. 1  
RELATING TO SPEEDING**

House Committee on Transportation

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The Hawaii Department of Transportation **supports S.B. 2308, S.D. 1**, related to speeding. This bill proposes to establish additional fines and penalties for convictions of speeding in school zones.

Last year, we witnessed another horrific tragedy when Sara Yara was killed just outside of her high school by a speeding driver who ran a red light. This tragedy, and so many other speed-related fatalities and injuries, continues to impact our families and communities. Each of these senseless tragedies could have been prevented if drivers obeyed Hawaii's traffic laws.

According to preliminary 2023 state data, 57 percent (54 out of 94) of Hawaii's traffic fatalities were speed-related, compared to 41 percent (48 out of 116) in 2022. Additionally, grant-funded 2023 data shows that 329 citations were issued statewide for speeding in construction/school zones, compared to 224 issued in 2022.

Currently under section 291C-104, Hawaii Revised Statutes, any person violating this section shall be fined \$250. Establishing the additional fines and penalties for this section could serve as a stronger deterrent to drivers choosing to engage in risky driving behavior and subsequently, spare our families and communities the pain of losing loved ones.

We respectfully urge the Committee to pass this proposed bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI  
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO  
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**Date:** 03/14/2024

**Time:** 10:00 AM

**Location:** 312 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

**Committee:** House Transportation

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** SB 2308, SD1 RELATING TO SPEEDING.

**Purpose of Bill:** Establishes additional fines and penalties for convictions of speeding in a school zone. (SD1)

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports SB 2308, SD 1.

The Department is committed to providing a safe and secure educational environment. One that includes a school's designated drop off and pick up areas. School zones by design are planned to help ensure students arrive at and leave school safely. The most common contributing factors noted in school zone related accidents are speed and distracted drivers. Even though speed reduction laws in school zones already exist, nationwide, approximately 25,000 students are still injured in these types of accidents each year. Increasing or adding to fines for those convicted of speeding in a school zone will help to deter motorists from committing future violations.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



## Testimony of the Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization

### Committee on Transportation

**Date Time: March 14, 2024, 10:00AM**

**Location: Conference Room 312 & via Videoconference  
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street**

### **Measure SB2308** RELATING TO SPEEDING

Dear Chair Todd, Vice Chair Kila, and Committee Members,

The Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization (OahuMPO) **supports SB2308**, which would establish additional fines and penalties for convictions of speeding in a school zone.

Child independent mobility (CIM), or the freedom for a child to travel to places without adult supervision, is on the decline in many countries, including the United States. CIM is important for children's physical and socio emotional development. Too often, parents cite safety as the reason they restrict their child's ability to walk or bike to school. While some of this concern for safety is intended towards stranger danger, we have seen a major uptick of concern for traffic safety, namely speeding. It is imperative that we take steps towards making the journey to and from school safer. This Act outlines penalties for speeding in school zones and allocates collected fines to programs with missions related to safe routes. This is just one way we can address safety concerns and improve CIM within our communities.

SB2308 aligns with the Vision and Goals of the Oahu Regional Transportation Plan (ORTP), by aiming to reduce serious injuries and traffic deaths to zero.

The OahuMPO is the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) on the island of Oahu responsible for carrying out a multimodal transportation planning process, including the development of a long-range (25-year horizon) metropolitan transportation plan, referred to as the Oahu Regional Transportation Plan (ORTP) that encourages and promotes a safe and efficient transportation system to serve the mobility needs of people and freight (including walkways, bicycles, and transit), fosters economic growth and development, and takes into consideration resiliency needs, while minimizing fuel consumption and air pollution ([23 CFR 450.300](#)).

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

**SB-2308-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 6:22:50 AM

Testimony for TRN on 3/14/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Chad K Taniguchi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Speeding especially in school zones is an antisocial act showing more concern for the driver's convenience than the safety of other human beings. Stricter fines and penalties are a wake up call to such drivers to slow down and watch for others.

Please pass this bill. Thank you.