

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



TESTIMONY BY:

EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

Deputy Directors
Nā Hope Luna Ho'okele
DREANALEE K. KALILI
TAMMY L. LEE
ROBIN K. SHISHIDO

STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | KA 'OIHANA ALAKAU
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

February 8, 2024
9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 312

H.B. 1579
RELATING TO WINDSHIELD TINTING

House Committee on Transportation

The Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) **opposes** H.B. 1579, which lowers the level of light transmittance allowed on sun screening glazing on motor vehicle window from 35 percent to 20 percent.

The HDOT opposes this bill as this would not comply with the minimum light transmittance requirements under 49 Code of Federal Regulations section 393.60(d), Coloring or tinting of windshields and windows, which requires the parallel luminous transmittance through the colored or tinted glazing is not less than 70 percent (30 percent tint) of the light at normal incidence in those portions of the windshield or windows which are marked as having a parallel luminous transmittance of not less than 70 percent.

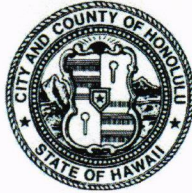
Light transmittance is important as it allows a driver to better see and react to an object, vehicle, or person on the road and be able to stop in time to avoid a crash. It is also important for other roadway users – drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians – to be able to see the driver to better determine their intent so conflicts can be avoided.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

LATE *Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

POLICE DEPARTMENT
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HOPE LUNA NUI MĀKA'I

OUR REFERENCE ST-TK

February 8, 2024

The Honorable Chris Todd, Chair
and Members
Committee on Transportation
House of Representatives
415 South Beretania Street, Room 312
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Todd and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill No.1579, Relating Windshield Tinting

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


The HPD opposes House Bill No. 1579, Relating to Windshield Tinting.

The HPD opposes the proposal to lower the level of light transmittance. Deeply tinted windows can impair a motorist's vision, especially in dim conditions which could contribute to collisions and increase hazards to surrounding motorists and pedestrians. Deeply tinted windows could also threaten the safety of law enforcement personnel by hindering their view into the vehicle, and it could also deter the proper identification of suspects who flee in vehicles.

The HPD urges you to oppose House Bill No. 1579, Relating to Windshield Tinting, and we appreciate the committee's consideration of our concerns. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

APPROVED:

Sincerely,


Arthur J. Logan
Chief of Police


Stason Tanaka, Major
Traffic Division

February 8, 2024

**Testimony of Tommy Silva
In support of S.B. No. 2320 & H.B. No. 1579
Relating to Motor Vehicle Sun Screening Devices.**

Good morning Senate Transportation Committee Chair Rep. Chris Todd, Vice Chair Rep. Darius Kila and Honored Members of the House Transportation Committee;

My name is Tommy Silva and I am the Founder of T&T Tinting Specialists, Inc. I want to testify in support of S.B. No. 227, SD1.

Our company has been tinting vehicle windows in Hawaii since 1982 and we have 30 full-time employees working in two Honolulu locations. I have always been an advocate for safe & legal tinting standards, and I have testified at the Capitol dozens of times over the past 41 years in support of our current Hawaii State Tint Law H.R.S. 291-21.5 along with our current methods of enforcement through annual Vehicle Safety Inspection and HPD citations for violations found on the street.

Our current auto tint law has been on the books since July 13, 1983. It currently allows 35% (+/- 6%) Visible Light Transmittance for "Passenger Vehicles" windows (except for the front windshield), while windows rear of the driver on Pickup Trucks, Vans, SUV's and "Crossovers" (collectively called "MPV's" going forward) have been exempt from the ruling when the MPV is equipped with two side-view mirrors.

I fully support SB #227 SD1 because the current law is discriminatory against passenger vehicle owners and it is has been difficult to explain to **passenger vehicle** owners why they are not allowed to install window film as dark as they have on the rear windows of their MPV's. Our state allows the same "Type 3" driver's license to operate both Passenger Vehicles and MPV's, so it is illogical to have two different tint standards for these two categories of vehicles— these bills clear this up.

In past sessions (Feb. 9, 2021), I read opposing testimony from the State DOT & HPD, and while I highly respect those offices and hold their exact same highest regard for public safety, they mention the passage of this bill creating unsafe conditions on the roadways are totally unfounded.

Fact is that *almost 50%* of the vehicles on Oahu's roadways today are Trucks, Sport Utility Vehicles, Vans and Crossovers (categorized as MPV's). *All* of which **already have tint darker than 35% on their rear windows from the factory**. There is zero evidence, statistical data or reports that confirm that these MPV vehicles are any more dangerous on the street or have been in more accidents than their "passenger vehicle" counterparts.

Hawaii is not the first State to bring parity to Passenger Vehicle and MPV after-market window tinting... Passage of this bill will put Hawaii into the same status of many other states who already allow

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the same level of after-market window tinting on Passenger Vehicles as MPV's such as California, Kentucky, Missouri, Montana, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, Oklahoma, Texas, Florida and Vermont.

I humbly request that you vote to pass this bill.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tommy Silva,
Founder
T&T Tinting Specialists, Inc.



HB-1579

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:56:28 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/8/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Travis Counsell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill and allow for a standardization of window tinting. Sedans are held to the 35% transmission on all side/rear windows, whereas vans, trucks, buses only have this limit on front driver/passenger windows with no limit on the rear side/back windows. 20% is a very reasonable amount for all windows to be held to.

HB-1579

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:10:35 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/8/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Crossland	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I **support** this Bill.

HB-1579

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:06:12 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/8/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Blake kalama	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposal to lower the legal tint limit to 25%. As a driver who prioritizes safety on the road, I believe that this adjustment will not only enhance the comfort of vehicle occupants but also contribute significantly to road safety. The current legal tint limit poses several challenges for drivers, especially in areas with intense sunlight and high temperatures. Tinted windows play a crucial role in reducing glare and heat inside the vehicle, thus ensuring a more comfortable driving experience. However, the existing limit of 35% often falls short in providing adequate protection against harsh sunlight, particularly during peak hours or in regions with extreme weather conditions. By lowering the legal tint limit to 25%, drivers will have access to tinted windows that offer better heat and glare reduction without compromising visibility or safety. This adjustment strikes a balance between personal comfort and road safety, allowing drivers to enjoy the benefits of tinted windows while ensuring optimal visibility for themselves and other road users. Moreover, modern advancements in tinting technology have made it possible to achieve optimal visibility and heat reduction even at lower tint percentages. Window films with a 25% tint can effectively block harmful UV rays, minimize interior fading, and reduce the risk of overheating without impeding the driver's ability to see clearly, both during the day and at night. Furthermore, lowering the legal tint limit can have positive implications for vehicle occupants, particularly those who are sensitive to sunlight or have medical conditions that require additional protection from UV rays. Tinted windows with a 25% tint can provide much-needed relief from the sun's glare and heat, enhancing the overall comfort and well-being of passengers. Lastly, lowering the tint percentage allows us as drivers to feel more secure from theft and other forms of crime that involve the loss of important items. Having the darker tint prevents car thieves from peering into vehicles and most likely will lower the rate of vehicle windows being damaged or broken. In conclusion, I wholeheartedly endorse the proposal to lower the legal tint limit to 25%. This adjustment will not only improve driving conditions for motorists but also promote safety and comfort on our roads. I urge policymakers to consider this initiative as a proactive measure to address the evolving needs of drivers and enhance the overall driving experience.

Sincerely, Justice-John Kiaha

(808)895-0413

kiahajustice@gmail.com

HB-1579

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 2:57:24 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/8/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ALLENREY CASTILLO	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I am writing to express my full support for 1579 HB, which addresses important considerations regarding windshield tinting. As a concerned citizen and motorist, I believe that this legislation is a crucial step towards ensuring safety on our roads while also allowing for reasonable customization options for vehicle owners

The proposed bill strikes a commendable balance between regulating tinting practices and respecting individual preferences. It recognizes the importance of maintaining visibility for drivers, especially during low-light conditions, while still acknowledging the desire for privacy and sun protection that tinted windows offer.

By setting clear guidelines and standards for windshield tinting, 1579 HB aims to enhance road safety and reduce potential hazards associated with excessively dark tints. I appreciate the thoughtful approach taken in crafting this legislation, and I believe it will contribute to a safer and more enjoyable driving experience for everyone.

Furthermore, the public awareness and education components of the bill are commendable. These provisions will help inform vehicle owners about the legal limits and safety implications of windshield tinting, fostering responsible practices within our community.

In conclusion, I urge the committee to support and advance 1579 HB. This legislation reflects a well-reasoned effort to address concerns related to windshield tinting, promoting both safety and individual choice. Thank you for your time and consideration of my testimony.

HB-1579

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 4:51:09 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/8/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
sina sinclair	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We pay high registration we should be able to tint our car as dark as we want

HB-1579

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:50:02 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/8/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Maldonado	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Fully SUPPORT HB 1579.

HB-1579

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:43:02 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/8/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keith Kaaialii	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this proposed bill. The sun Hawaii is hot, so lowering the legal percentage limit of window tinting will help tremendously. Also, it provides added security and privacy from child predators and drug attics to look into your car and attempt to bite your fingers off, or throw some kind of corrosive chemicals on you because they will have a harder time seeing you in your vehicle.

HB-1579

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 2:34:08 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/8/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Val Valdez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need this to protect us from the dangerous sun. It would be nice to be able to also tint the whole windshield a small percentage darker as well so that we are not burning up in the terrible daily traffic.

HB-1579

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 4:56:05 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/8/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Monica Amigo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe we need this approval because when driving home from the sun is literally blinding my sight even my sunglasses and car visors don't help. I believe the tint will help. Thank you.

HB-1579

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 5:31:22 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/8/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justin Hortizuela	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1579 to lower the current vehicle tint from from thirty-five percent to twenty percent.

As a construction worker, I commute daily to different job sites and keep my tools stored in my vehicle, a SUV. These tools are invaluable to me as they enable me to work and all the tools combined cost a fortune. Parking on the street or anywhere always leaves me with the feeling that my car could be broken into anytime of day. With my tools in the back advertising to be stolen. Which is where darker tint can be useful to anybody with a vehicle.

Lowering the allowed level of light transmittance on tint will make it harder for anybody to see inside my SUV, and keep prying eyes away from my tools, keeping my tools hidden away from eyes outside. I know many share the same sentiment as me, as sometimes you have no option but to leave valuables in your car. A darker tint level will be useful for all.

HB-1579

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 6:36:57 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/8/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan Christopher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I would like to voice my support of this bill.

Ryan C

Honokaa HI

HB-1579

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 6:49:50 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/8/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Corwin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm in strong support of Hb1579

HB-1579

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 7:07:45 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/8/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kalani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I think this is a great idea. It's hot and sunny down here. Plus, tint technology is way better nowadays. It's not super dark when you look out from the car. People can't see in so you have privacy. It's not a safety hazard to have dark tint. So why not let us use it on our cars?

Aloha Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Adam Kenney, and I want to thank you for the opportunity to be able to share my thoughts regarding the House Bill 1579 relating to windshield tinting.

I am stoked, that this is finally being brought up for discussion, and possibly approval. For many years now, the point of having a legal tint law in the State of Hawaii is to ensure that pedestrians, law enforcement and other drivers can see into your vehicle for the purposes of visual communication. Our vehicles are annually assessed for “safety check, that look for some of the following: ensuring brake lights, blinkers, reverse, hazard, and running lights are working in a normal operative state, to be able to communicate with other drivers. If the blinkers on a vehicle are working, the driver is indicating that they are changing lanes, if the brake lights are working, the driver is indicating that they are slowing down, if the reverse lights are working, the driver is indicating that the vehicle is backing up, and if the emergency hazard lights are working, the driver is indicating that something is wrong with the vehicle, or it’s another way that drivers thank another driver for letting them change lanes in front of them. With a darker legal tint limit of 20%, drivers are still also visible from the front windshield, in the event that they encounter a pedestrian, and they are able to waive them down as “safe” to cross a street, versus a vehicle that has 5% tint around all of their windows.

Drivers should also be rolling down their windows to communicate with a law enforcement officer after being pulled over, or for assistance. If a vehicle has blacked out windows, officers have speakers in their vehicles, which enable them to verbally communicate with drivers to request for them to roll down their windows in the event that a vehicle is pulled over, and they cannot see into a vehicle. A law enforcement officer could deem a situation unsafe, and call for backup, if a vehicle is considered a danger or threat, due to lack of visibility. With a darker legal limit of 20%, visibility is safer for officers’.

Allowing the Residents of Hawaii to tint our vehicles from 35% to 20%, also provide some of the following benefits: it keeps vehicle interiors cooler during the day, it protects the vehicles upholstery, it protects passengers in a vehicle from the sun’s rays, it prevents glare from the sun rise and restricting driver visibility, and one could also argue, that it deters criminals from trying to look into vehicles windows and break into them, when they see personal belongings in a vehicle.

Having passenger vehicles like SUV’s, trucks, and limousines that already are able to legally tint their rear windows as dark as they want, doesn’t seem like a fair comparison to normal vehicles with a 35% limitation. I would also like to ask all of you to ask yourselves this question: “How many vehicles do you see driving around on the road right now, that have expired safety checks, expired registrations, and illegal tint on them?”.

By lowering the legal limit for vehicle tint, you’re promoting more citizens to abide by the laws, and get a darker legal tint, so that they can deem their vehicles “safe” with a valid safety check, and register these vehicles. Most people don’t want to strip their window tint just to get a safety check and valid registration. The issue here wouldn’t be about legal and illegal window tint, but

more so about motor vehicle insurance, as you cannot get motor vehicle insurance without a legal safety check and registration. How many of these vehicles do you think have the legal required insurance? Me personally, I do not have illegal tint on my windows, both of my vehicles are legally registered, safety check inspected, and insured with full coverage.

Once again, I would just like to thank the Chair and Committee again for taking the time to read and hear out my testimony, and I truly hope that this will put out a better perspective for you all on approving House Bill 1579.

Mahalo,

Adam Kenney, ARM ®

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Kenney', written in a cursive style.

HB-1579

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 1:11:29 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/8/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justin Lam	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

I fully support this bill. As many trucks, vans, and sport utility vehicles already come equipped with 20% tint in the rear windows from the factory, it would therefore be evident that a standard of 20% should also be allowable on cars, and driver/passenger windows. The difference in heat reduction would be paramount. Since 20% tint already exists on trucks, vans, and SUVs from the factory, any argument by law enforcement entities in opposition to this bill is moot.

Please approve this bill, and help cool our cars.

Mahalo

-Justin Lam

HB-1579

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 9:50:04 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/8/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel Bustamante	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Having darker tint percentages would help with the heat in the summer months since it gets past 90 degrees. Unsure if you've entered a vehicle that has been sitting in the sun, but it can get up to 150 degrees inside a vehicle. With darker ceramic tints, the temperature drops to 100 to 110 degrees. Also, having darker tints can help if children are locked inside of a vehicle, giving them more time for others to take action and for children to survive inside a locked vehicle. Having darker tints can even help at night, especially because people are running LEDs that can disorient others at night. Darker tints can help mitigate the amount of light that comes in from those running LEDs, which can lead to safer driving since you're not blinded by the wing mirrors and/or rearview mirror. Even with 35%, LEDs can be distracting to those who drive sedans and coupes.

HB-1579

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 11:14:24 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/8/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tache Uesugi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this house bill due to the hotter the summer days. Darker tint creates a cooler environment and reduces the stress on your vehicles climate controls. The cooler the environment the less your car has to work to keep it cool.

HB-1579

Submitted on: 2/8/2024 2:15:18 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/8/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tristan Pellejera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a current resident of the Ewa Beach area and an individual who also frequents Kapolei and Waianae, I experience the uncomfortable feeling of getting into a warm vehicle on a daily basis. The current minimum light transmittance limit of thirty-five per cent is inadequate in keeping vehicle interiors at a reasonable temperature, especially during hot days. Global climate change has caused an increase in Hawai'i's average temperature over the past fifty years, and as the greenhouse effect and climate change become worse, the average temperature in Hawai'i will only continue to increase. Lowering the minimum light transmittance for glazing material on vehicles to twenty per cent would help address this issue now and into the future. In addition to this, glazing material with a twenty per cent light transmittance will not compromise the ability for law enforcement or first responders to see into vehicles for safety purposes and still allows enough light into the vehicle so as to not compromise the safety of individuals within a vehicle or first responders who need to see into a vehicle. Lastly, a light transmittance of twenty per cent is still adequate in allowing a driver to see out of their vehicle without decreased visibility at night.