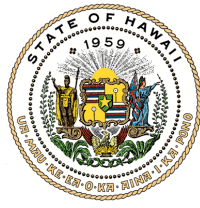


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



JORDAN LOWE
DIRECTOR

MICHAEL VINCENT
Deputy Director
Administration

JARED K. REDULLA
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

SYLVIA LUKE
LT GOVERNOR
KE KE'ENA

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

Ka 'Oihana Ho'okō Kānāwai

715 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1934 HOUSE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED

Before the House Committee on Finance

Friday, February 23, 2024; 11:30 a.m.

State Capitol Conference Room 308, Via Videoconference

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the Committee:

The Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) **supports** on House Bill 1934, HD 2.

This bill establishes a working group to study, investigate, and recommend transformative changes to laws relating to the operation of a vehicle while under the influence of an intoxicant to reduce incidents of intoxicated driving.

The DLE appreciates the inclusion of a representative from law enforcement on the working group in this draft of the bill. While it may not be necessary to invite a member from all county and the State law enforcement agencies, law enforcement should be represented and the current version of this bill addresses this need.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of this bill.

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 23, 2024
11:30 a.m.
State Capitol, RM 315

HB 1934, H.D. 2
RELATING TO DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED

House Committee on Finance

The Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) **supports H.B. 1934, H.D. 2**, which requires the Director of Transportation to convene an intoxicated driving reduction working group, under the leadership of Hawaii's Strategic Highway Safety Plan, to make recommendations for amendments to existing laws to reduce incidents of intoxicated driving.

The HDOT is currently updating their Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP), which includes an impaired driving emphasis area. In 2006, which was prior to the requirement that Hawaii develop an SHSP, there were 161 fatalities on Hawaii's highways, 79 or 49.1 percent of them died in alcohol-related traffic crashes. Since the inception of the SHSP in 2007, Hawaii's traffic fatalities have dropped to an average of 104 each year and 37 alcohol-related fatalities each year. The drop in fatalities is largely due to the collaborative effort of the stakeholders involved in the SHSP process, including legislatures, and implementation of policy recommendations.

We believe using SHSP would be a good process and plan to help accomplish the intent of this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



Date: February 21, 2024

To: The Honorable Representative Chris Todd, Chair
The Honorable Representative Darius Kila, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Transportation

Re: Comments on HB1934 HD2, Relating to Driving While Intoxicated.

Hearing: Friday, February 23rd, 2024, at 11:30am, Conference Room 308

Position: Comments

Aloha, my name is Rick Collins, the Director of the Hawai'i Alcohol Policy Alliance (Alliance), a program of the Hawai'i Public Health Institute.¹ HB1934 HD2 would establish a workgroup to make recommendations to reduce the incidents of intoxicated driving.

Reducing alcohol-related deaths is essential. This workgroup would provide the Legislature with important recommendations to reduce road incidents resulting from intoxicated driving. The Alliance appreciates the Legislature's desire to keep our roadways safer. The formation of a workgroup to review and recommend strategies to reduce alcohol-related traffic crashes and fatalities is vital.

To continue to lose lives on the roads as a result of alcohol-related incidences is unnecessary. We support bringing together people to make recommendations to address this issue. Furthermore, as this workgroup begins, we strongly recommend that immediate strategies be implemented.

Recommended amendments for HB1934 HD2:

1. **HB 1935 HD1 would lower the blood alcohol content from 0.08 to 0.05. We urge the Legislature to consider including that language within HB1934 HD2 in this bill language.** This action would create a bill that would immediately enact best practices while also ensuring there is continued work to identify and implement further strategies to keep our communities safe. It is critical for the Legislature to expeditiously address alcohol-related traffic crashes and fatalities during this legislative session. We strongly support action in this session, as waiting another year will continue to keep alcohol-related traffic fatalities and crashes unaddressed.

Including this language would significantly strengthen the bill by allowing for immediate action to implement strategies that the research and traffic safety organizations currently prioritize to reduce alcohol-impaired driving fatalities and crashes. Lowering the BAC limit for impaired



driving to **0.05 is the most effective legislation known by research science** to reduce alcohol-related traffic crashes and deaths.

- With numerous studies published on the efficacy of a 0.05 BAC and the recommendations by the National Traffic Safety Board and the World Health Organization, 0.05 needs no additional research. Delay in its implementation will likely leave Hawai'i's traffic deaths unnecessarily high. Hawai'i is currently 7th highest in the nation, but 0.05 BAC would likely reduce this figure almost immediately.
2. Section 1, (e) – Include other possible strategies for the workgroup to discuss and review by including the following language: “(6) any other additional evidence-based strategies as identified by the working group that is shown to reduce incidents of intoxicated driving and its related consequences.”
 3. Insert language from HB1594, which prohibits alcohol purchase and public consumption by any individual convicted of a DUI. This bill currently has no research evidence to show any level of effectiveness in reducing the incidents of intoxicated driving. It is recommended that HB1594 not be passed but instead place the proposed strategy (i.e., prohibiting DUI offenders from purchasing or publicly consuming alcohol) into this working group. The following language recommended would be the following: Section 1, (e), “(7) the impacts of prohibiting DUI offenders from purchasing and publicly consuming alcohol.”

Hawai'i has the opportunity to prioritize the lives of all road users and take immediate action this year by inserting the language from HB1935 HD1 into this bill. A workgroup alone would only leave our alcohol-related fatalities and crashes stubbornly high for yet another year. We can improve the overall health and safety of all people in Hawai'i. Please consider including these recommended bill amendments in HB1934 HD2.

Mahalo for your consideration of our testimony on this important measure.

Rick Collins,
Director
Hawai'i Alcohol Policy Alliance

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at rick@hiphi.org or (808) 591-6508, x22.

ⁱ Hawai'i Public Health Institute is a hub for building healthy communities, providing issue-based advocacy, education, and technical assistance through partnerships with government, academia, foundations, business, and community-based organizations.

HB-1934-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 1:41:07 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amanda Chiquita	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Amanda Chiquita, and I am a Big Island resident. I am expressing my full support for the proposed bill for HB1935, which requires the Director of Transportation to create an Intoxicated Driving Reduction Working Group. This is crucial for tackling the serious issue of drunk driving on our roads.

Drunk driving puts everyone at risk and causes tragic accidents. Despite existing laws, the problem persists. We need this working group to develop better laws to reduce drunk driving. For the state of Hawaii on the Big Island, it's been reported that last year, in 2023, there were about 548 DUIs, and for 2024, there were 55 DUIs. Drinking and driving is a severe problem that needs to be addressed.

This measure is essential because it shows a commitment to long-term safety. By bringing experts together and making intelligent recommendations, we can make our roads safer for everyone. I urge lawmakers to support this bill and prioritize the safety of our communities. Thank you for considering this critical step in reducing drunk driving.