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March 27, 2024
2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, RM 325

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

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

The Hawaii Department of Transportation **supports S.B. 2308, S.D. 1, H.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.

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S. B. No. 2308, S.D.1, H.D.1: RELATING TO SPEEDING

Chair David A. Tarnas
Vice Chair Gregg Takayama
Honorable Committee Members

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

Draconian measures to crack down on speeding seem ideal, but it is unclear if it will truly deter offenders. What is clear, however, is that higher fines will make it harder for those who are already struggling with court debt. More fines result in higher amounts of debt. The mounting and unpaid debt will inevitably go to collections and license stoppers will be imposed on otherwise law-abiding people. This in fact will lead to an increase in unlicensed drivers.

Granted, the Legislature may feel compelled to do *something* to deter speeding, but increasing fines is inadequate. The better approach is the harder one: safer streets through infrastructure. Speed bumps, barriers, and physical restrictions compel people to drive slower and safer, not the abstract threat of getting caught, going to court, and paying a fine.

Thank you for taking these comments into consideration.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI
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Date: 03/27/2024

Time: 02:00 PM

Location: 325 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: House Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Bill Title: SB 2308, SD1, HD1 RELATING TO SPEEDING.

Purpose of Bill: Authorizes additional fines and penalties for convictions of speeding in a school zone. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports SB 2308, SD 1, HD1.

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 Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Date Time: March 27 2024, 2:00PM

**Location: Conference Room 325 & via Videoconference
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street**

Measure SB2308 RELATING TO SPEEDING

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, 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.

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.

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.

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.