

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 12 2025RE: S.B. No. 971
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Transportation and Culture and the Arts
and Public Safety and Military Affairs, to which was referred S.B.
No. 971 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TRAFFIC,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Provide that if a law enforcement officer lawfully stops a motor vehicle and the operator is cited for driving without a valid license, the officer shall not permit the operator to resume the use of the motor vehicle;
- (2) Require the motor vehicle to be moved by a licensed driver or towed at the owner's expense; and
- (3) Provide that the cited operator is responsible for arranging the operator's transportation from the scene of the stop.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Transportation.

Your Committees received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Hawai'i Police Department, Office of the Public Defender, and State of Hawaii Organization of Police Officers.



Your Committees find that unlicensed drivers on the State's roads pose a significant public safety risk to themselves and others. While existing law allows law enforcement officers to cite unlicensed drivers, there is currently no requirement to prevent these cited drivers from immediately continuing to operate their vehicles unlawfully after receiving citations. This measure will address this problem by requiring motor vehicles used by cited unlicensed operators to be moved by a licensed driver or towed at the owner's expense.

Accordingly, your Committees have amended this measure by inserting an effective date of July 1, 2050, to encourage further discussion.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Transportation and Culture and the Arts and Public Safety and Military Affairs that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 971, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 971, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Judiciary.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Transportation
and Culture and the Arts and
Public Safety and Military
Affairs,


BRANDON J.C. ELEFANTE, Chair
CHRIS LEE, Chair

Record of Votes
Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts
TCA

*Only one measure per Record of Votes

The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
PSM

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 971	Committee Referral: TCA/PSM, JDC	Date: 2-10-25		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312</div> <div style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311</div> <div style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310</div> <div style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313</div> </div>				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
ELEFANTE, Brandon J.C. (C)	✓			
WAKAI, Glenn (VC)	✓			
FUKUNAGA, Carol	✓			
RHOADS, Karl	✓			
DECORTE, Samantha	✓			
TOTAL	5	0	0	0
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes