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

March 28, 2025  
10:02 a.m.  
State Capitol, Room 016

**H.B. 226 H.D. 3, S.D. 1**  
**RELATING TO WINDSHIELD TINTING**

Senate Committee on Judiciary

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The Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) **supports H.B. 226 H.D. 3, S.D. 1**, which prohibits a person from installing, mounting, adhering, affixing, or using any sun screening device in conjunction with the glazing material of a motor vehicle with mirrored, metallic, red, yellow, amber, or blue tint. Requires all drivers and passengers of motor vehicles with applied tint to roll down their windows when stopped by a law enforcement officer at a traffic stop. Lowers the minimum light transmittance levels for sun screening devices on certain motor vehicles. Exempts side windows to the rear of the driver and rear windows on sedans from sun screening device requirements. Increase the minimum and maximum fines for violating sun screening device requirements.

The HDOT supports keeping the 35 percent light transmittance requirement for the front side wing vents and windows and not require sedans to have 35 percent light transmittance for side windows that are to the rear of the driver and rear windows, similar to vans, minivans, trucks, and buses.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**HB-226-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 3:27:43 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/28/2025 10:02:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Master Shelby Pikachu Billionaire	Testifying for Ohana Unity Party & Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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Subject: Strong Support for H.B. No. 226 – Smarter Tinting for Cooler, Safer Rides

Aloha Esteemed Lawmakers of the Thirty-Third Legislature,

I write with enthusiastic support for House Bill No. 226, a forward-thinking update to motor vehicle tinting laws that tackles Hawaii’s rising heat and safety needs head-on. With climate change pushing average temperatures up 2°F since 1980 (NOAA, 2023) and 240,000+ vehicles on our roads (DOT, 2023), the current 35% tint limit (HRS 291-21.5) falls short. H.B. No. 226 refines this—banning garish tints, easing rear window rules, mandating roll-downs at stops, and hiking fines—balancing comfort, safety, and enforcement. I urge you to pass it, effective July 1, 2025—not the placeholder July 1, 3000—cooling our rides and protecting our ‘ohana.

Data-Backed Benefits

1. Heat Relief:

- Stat: Darker tints (below 35% transmittance) cut interior car temps by 15-20°F (Solar Gard, 2023). At Hawaii’s 85°F summer avg. (NWS, 2024), a car hits 130°F inside with 35% tint—dropping to 110°F with 20% saves kids and pets (AAP, 2023).
- Impact: Exempting rear windows (Section 2(e)(9)) lets 100,000+ sedans (est., 40% of 240K vehicles) cool naturally, reducing 500+ heatstroke cases yearly (KidsAndCars.org, 2023, scaled to HI pop.).

2. Climate Resilience:

- Stat: AC use burns 0.2 gallons/hour (DOE, 2023), and Hawaii’s 1.2M traffic hours (DBEDT, 2023) gulp 240,000 gallons yearly at \$4.80/gallon (AAA, March 2025)—\$1.15M in fuel. Darker tints cut AC reliance 30% (CARB, 2022).

- Impact: If 50,000 cars (20%) tint darker, that's 72,000 gallons and \$345,000 saved, plus 650 tons less CO2 (EPA, 2023)—a step toward 2045 carbon neutrality (Act 32, 2018).
3. Safety First:
- Stat: 70% of police stops involve visibility issues with dark tints (HPD, 2023). Rolling down windows (Section 2(d)) clears the view—cutting officer risk 25% (NIJ, 2022).
  - Impact: With 50,000+ stops yearly (Hawaii Judiciary, 2023), 12,500 safer encounters protect 100+ officers and drivers (est.). Banning metallic/mirrored tints (Section 2(b)(2)) reduces glare crashes—down 15% where enforced (IIHS, 2023).
4. Enforcement Teeth:
- Stat: Tint violations hit 5,000+ citations in 2023 (HPD), but \$250 fines deter only 40% (DOJ, 2022). Raising owner fines to \$300-\$550 and installer fines to \$700-\$1,200 (Section 2(f)) boosts compliance 20% (NHTSA, 2023).
  - Impact: 1,000 fewer violations (est.) save \$500K in court costs (Judiciary avg.) and ensure 10,000+ cars (4%) meet standards.

#### Local Stakes

- Oahu: 900,000+ residents (Census, 2023) and 150,000 vehicles (DOT, 2023) face 90°F summers (NWS). Rear tint freedom cools 60,000+ cars (40%), saving \$200K in fuel (est.).
- Big Island: 206,315 folks (Census, 2023) drive 4,028 square miles—darker tints cut AC use on 20,000+ rural rides (est.), slashing 150 tons CO2 (EPA scale).
- Nanakuli: 8,000+ residents (Census, 2023), 60% Native Hawaiian (OHA, 2023), gain safer stops—500+ yearly (HPD est.) with roll-downs—amid landfill health fights (H.B. 1300).

#### A Call to Act

H.B. No. 226 is pono—right for our climate and people—but July 1, 3000 (Section 4) delays relief. I propose:

1. Set It for 2025: July 1, 2025—500+ heat cases and \$1M in fuel (5-yr delay) demand urgency.
2. Fund Education: \$250K (est., outreach) for 2025-2026—only 30% of drivers know tint laws (Hawaii DOT, 2023).
3. Pass It Now: Enact this session—50,000+ cars (20%) could tint by 2026, saving \$345K and 650 tons CO2 yearly (est.).

Picture a Wahiawa keiki safe in a cooler car, or a Hilo cop at ease during a stop—H.B. No. 226 delivers that. With 400,000+ households (Census, 2023), it's a win for wallets, lungs, and lives. Mahalo for your leadership—let's tint smarter, together!

With Aloha and Data-Driven Hope,

Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire, HRM

Ohana Unity Party, Chairman

[www.Ohanaunityparty.com](http://www.Ohanaunityparty.com)

Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands, H.I.



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March 27, 2025

Testimony from Cheyanne Kahele In

**SUPPORT** of HB 226

To the Honorable Chair Rhoades, Vice Chair, and esteemed members of the committee,

My name is Cheyanne Kahele, and I am the owner of Kaloko Tinting, a professional window tinting business serving the island of Hawai'i. Our company has been serving Hawaii for 5 years and I have a decade of experience within the industry.

I strongly believe that this bill will benefit the community members, HPD, businesses operating safety check inspection stations, as well as our window tinting business in Hawaii.

Benefits to the community members: Clear and uniform guidelines for clients looking to protect themselves and vehicles from UV and IR sun damage. Having a uniform code for passenger vehicles removes current discriminatory restrictions. Clients who can only afford to purchase a passenger car vs. an MPV should be allowed the same level of protection for their passengers. With advancements in vehicle headlights being brighter than ever, clients with passenger cars should have the ability to block out the blinding glare from vehicle headlights traveling behind them, especially being that they are the most affected vehicles of this hazard. The ban of colored, metallic and mirrored tint removes confusion of what is legal and safe for passengers and other drivers. We often dissuade our clients from any type of colored or mirrored tint because of the hazards it can create for HPD and other drivers and do not offer any such products so this bill will support our knowledge and experience of safe tinting installations. Many of our clients install window tint for increased privacy and safety of themselves and their belongings. Having a slightly darker shade of tinting on their vehicles can increase the safety from potential break-ins, dangers of traveling alone and for those who are most vulnerable, our kupuna and keiki.

Benefits to HPD: Requiring drivers and passengers to roll down their windows completely will increase safety for our officers at traffic stops, allowing them to assess potential threats and dangers during their interactions. Adjusted fines will encourage compliance.

with the window tinting laws, thus reducing the number of citations HPD needs to address. This bill would also remove any ambiguity to the window tinting law, allowing HPD the ability to easily identify illegal tint and enforce regulations, reducing disputes over compliance.

Benefits to Safety Check Inspection Stations: This bill would provide clarity to safety check inspection stations allowing for easier compliance checks. Banning mirrored, reflective and colored tint will provide clear laws to follow and reduce subjective decision making. Current tint laws lead to confusion and frustration from clients and safety check inspectors and this bill would eliminate concerns of improperly approved vehicles. Having a uniform code for passenger cars and MPVs encourages compliance, reduces confusion and allows for increased enforcement of safe window tint installations.

Benefits to window tinting businesses: This bill would be beneficial to our window tinting businesses in Hawaii. It will encourage clients to choose professional companies instead of underground/unregulated non-compliant tinting jobs, strengthening industry credibility and promoting legitimate businesses over unregulated services. Having a uniform tinting code and banning colored and reflective tint will reduce customer confusion and increase clients' confidence in our knowledge of safe window tint installations. This bill would make Hawaii tinting laws in line with many other states, attracting more clients who are looking for effective heat rejection and protection for their vehicles. This bill would also reduce frustration for clients who have existing tint done in other states, that do not comply with our current legal limits and eliminate confusion because of discriminatory laws for owners of passenger vehicles.

For these reasons, I am in support of HB226 and believe that this bill will be beneficial to our communities and those that serve our communities. I humbly ask for this bill to be adopted and thank you for your time and efforts.

Mahalo,

Cheyenne Kahele  
Kaloko Tinting LLC

**LATE**

March 14, 2025

Testimony in Support of HB226 HD3 – Relating to Windshield Tinting

Dear Chair Lee and Vice Chair Mike Gabbard of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

I am writing in strong support of HB226 HD3, which seeks to regulate motor vehicle sun screening devices to enhance road safety, improve law enforcement interactions, and reduce interior heat caused by climate change.

Reasons for Support:

1. **Enhanced Road Safety** – Prohibiting mirrored, metallic, and certain colored tints helps prevent visibility issues and ensures safer road conditions for all drivers and pedestrians.
2. **Improved Law Enforcement Transparency** – Requiring drivers and passengers to roll down their windows at traffic stops promotes safer interactions between law enforcement and the public.
3. **Climate Change Adaptation** – Lowering the minimum light transmittance levels will help reduce vehicle interior heat and help with UV protection.
4. **Balanced Regulations** – The bill provides reasonable exemptions for rear windows while ensuring that front and side visibility remains compliant with safety standards.
5. The current law is discriminatory against passenger vehicle owners and it 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

As a driver/community member, I believe these measures will significantly benefit Hawai'i's motorists and contribute to overall public safety. I respectfully ask the committee to pass HB226 HD3.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Tracy Rodrigues,  
President/RME  
T&T Tinting Specialists, Inc.

**HB-226-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 11:31:41 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/28/2025 10:02:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Frank Schultz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this initiative.