

The Judiciary, State of Hawai'i

Testimony to the Thirty-Third State Legislature, 2025 Session

House Committee on Transportation

Representative Darius K. Kila, Chair

Representative Tina Nakada Grandinetti, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 13, 2025, 10:00 a.m.

Conference Room 430

By:

Michelle D. Acosta

Deputy Chief Court Administrator

District Court of the First Circuit

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Bill No. and Title: House Bill No. 235, Relating to Traffic Safety

Purpose: Requires the Department of Transportation to expand the use of photo red light imaging detector systems and automated speed enforcement systems to locations on the North Shore of Oahu.

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary takes no position on the merits of the bill and submits the following concerns for the Legislature's consideration.

The Judiciary has concerns regarding the expansion of the red light imaging detector systems and automated speed enforcement systems to the North Shore of O'ahu. The Department of Transportation currently has red light detectors in 10 downtown Honolulu locations. These generate approximately 2,000 citations for red light violations per month. These citations are processed by the Traffic Violations Bureau at the Honolulu District Court. Expansion of the camera systems to the North Shore of O'ahu would require the citations to be processed by the Wahiawa District Court.



The photo red light detector system coupled with the automated speed enforcement systems may overwhelm the limited number of court staff at the existing Wahiawa District Court. The Judiciary would need ample time to work with the Department of Transportation on its expansion plans for both of its traffic enforcement camera systems and build up the court's capacity to efficiently process the citations.

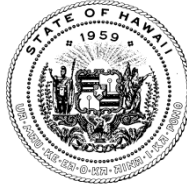
While the district court receives the citations from the third-party vendor electronically, court staff are needed to ensure that the data received is accurate and processed accordingly. The Judiciary's Information Technology Systems Department (ITSD) is currently looking for technological solutions to manage the high capacity of these traffic enforcement systems to generate citations. However, the limited court staff at the Wahiawa District Court would be responsible for processing written statements, issuing default judgments and setting hearings for motorists who request a hearing or wish to proceed to trial.

The Judiciary requests that any expansion of the red-light and/or speed camera system take into consideration the impact on the Wahiawa District Court and allow adequate time for the court to prepare both its technological solution and human resource capacity. The Judiciary requests amending the bill, Section 2(b) to read, "In selecting these locations, the department of transportation shall seek public input from the community and the Judiciary."

The Judiciary would request an effective date of January 1, 2027.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
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KA LUNA HO'OKELE

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | KA 'OIHANA ALAKAU
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February 13, 2025
10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 329

H.B. 235
RELATING TO TRAFFIC SAFETY

House Committee on Transportation

The Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) **supports the intent of H.B. 235**, which requires the HDOT to expand the use of photo red light imaging detector systems and automated speed enforcement systems to locations on the North Shore of Oahu.

The HDOT plans to begin expanding the effective photo red light imaging detector systems and implementing the automated speed enforcement systems statewide this year. The HDOT will use the same criteria, used to pick the pilot locations, to select future locations. The criteria included number of crashes caused by drivers who disregarded the traffic signal, volume of traffic as well as traffic citations for disregarding the signal.

While we support the intent of this bill to install the automated photo enforcement program on the North Shore, the HDOT stresses the importance of using the same selection criteria statewide to ensure consistency within the program. This consistency is also vital during contested court cases as the data will need to justify the selection of the location.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



MIKE LAMBERT
DIRECTOR

SYLVIA LUKE
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KE KE'ENA

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
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JARED K. REDULLA
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TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 235
RELATING TO TRAFFIC SAFETY
Before the House Committee on
TRANSPORTATION

Thursday, February 13, 2025, 10:00 am
State Capitol Conference Room 430 & Videoconference
WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Chair Kila, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and members of the Committee:

The Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) strongly supports House Bill 235, which requires the Department of Transportation to expand the use of photo red light imaging detector systems and automated speed enforcement systems to locations on the North Shore of Oahu.

This bill seeks to enhance traffic safety enforcement capabilities on the North Shore of Oahu through the implementation of automated enforcement systems. The expansion of these systems aligns with modern law enforcement practices and provides crucial support to traditional enforcement methods.

The DLE recognizes that automated traffic enforcement systems serve as effective deterrents to dangerous driving behaviors and have demonstrated success in reducing traffic violations and accidents in other jurisdictions. The North Shore of Oahu, with its unique combination of tourist traffic and local commuters, particularly benefits from such enhanced safety measures.

We believe this legislation will significantly contribute to public safety by providing consistent enforcement of traffic laws, reducing the strain on human resources, and allowing for more efficient allocation of law enforcement personnel. The requirement for public input ensures community engagement in the implementation process, while the progress report requirement by 2026 enables proper oversight and evaluation of the system's effectiveness.

The automated systems proposed in this bill will complement existing law enforcement efforts and provide valuable data for targeted traffic safety improvements. This technology-driven approach to traffic enforcement represents a proactive step toward preventing accidents and protecting residents and visitors on North Shore roadways.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill.

HB-235

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 9:09:08 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/13/2025 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Frank Schultz | Individual | Oppose | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I consider this to be an invasion of privacy and it cannot, without a doubt, be proved that the owner of the vewhicle is the actual drivar who committed the infraction.

HB-235

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 5:36:09 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/13/2025 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Edgardo Diaz Vega | Individual | Support | Remotely Via Zoom |

Comments:

I urge you to support this proposal for red light imaging detection and automated speed enforcement systems for the North Shore of Oahu. Driving through red lights or at excessive speeds is a common practice among drivers, but one which represents grave risk to the health and safety of drivers themselves and others. The installation of these systems in the North Shore of Oahu will help push drivers to better respect traffic laws, subsequently preventing injuries and saving lives on our roadways. People drive to visit the North Shore for its breathtaking views of the natural scenery and this proposal helps make the journey on those roads safer for all.



Testimony of the Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization

Committee on Transportation

02/13/25 10:00 AM
CR 430 & Videoconference

HB235
Relating to Traffic Safety

Dear Chair Kila, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and Committee Members,

The Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization (OahuMPO) **supports HB235** which requires the Department of Transportation to expand the use of photo red light imaging detector systems and automated speed enforcement systems to locations on the North Shore of Oahu.

This bill supports the goal of reducing traffic related deaths and serious injuries to zero by 2045. Traffic fatalities increased ten percent between 2023 and 2024 in Hawaii. In 2024, the State of Hawaii Department of Transportation conducted an annual behavioral study, and nearly one-quarter of respondents admitted to exceeding the speed limit by more than 20 miles per hour, and over half exceeded the speed limit by 10-20 miles per hour in the last six months. The OahuMPO supports the expansion of the red-light imaging detector and automated speed enforcement systems to additional locations to curtail poor driving behaviors including speeding and running red lights.

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), which encourages and promotes a safe, efficient, and resilient transportation system that serves the mobility needs of all people and freight (including walkways, bicycles, and transit), fosters economic growth and development, while minimizing fuel consumption and air pollution ([23 CFR 450.300](#)).

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.