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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 11, 2025
3:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 224

**H.B. 228, H.D. 1
RELATING TO LICENSE PLATES**

Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts

The Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) **supports Measure No. H.B. 228, H.D. 1**, which authorizes the counties to adopt rules for the use of electronic license plates. Prohibits the use of license plate flipping devices and intentionally obscuring a license plate with a cover or shield and establishes fines.

The HDOT supports this measure to prohibit the use of license plate flipping devices and license plate covers as these will impact the automated enforcement program.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



MIKE LAMBERT
DIRECTOR

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, Hawai'i 96813

JARED K. REDULLA
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 228, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO LICENSE PLATES
Before the Senate Committee on
TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS
Tuesday, March 11, 2025, 3:00 PM
State Capitol Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and members of the Committee:

The Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) supports House Bill 228, House Draft 1. This bill authorizes counties to adopt rules for the use of electronic license plates and regulations concerning the intentional obscuring of license plates with covers or shields. Additionally, the bill prohibits the use of license plate flipping devices and establishes appropriate minimum and maximum fines for violations.

The DLE believes this legislation is necessary for enhancing public safety and law enforcement capabilities. License plates serve as critical identifiers for vehicles involved in criminal activities, traffic violations, and other public safety matters. Devices or methods that obscure or alter license plates are often employed specifically to evade identification by law enforcement and automated systems like traffic cameras and toll collection devices.

The prohibition on license plate flipping devices addresses a concerning technology that allows drivers to instantly switch between different license plates, which has no

legitimate purpose and exists primarily to facilitate criminal activity and evade law enforcement. The established minimum fine of \$750 for these devices appropriately reflects the serious nature of this violation.

Similarly, intentionally obscuring license plates with covers or shields undermines the fundamental purpose of vehicle registration and identification. The minimum fine of \$500 for such violations serves as an appropriate deterrent.

By authorizing counties to establish rules for electronic license plates, this legislation appropriately prepares our state for emerging technology while ensuring proper regulatory oversight. Electronic license plates offer potential benefits including streamlined registration processes and enhanced vehicle tracking capabilities in cases of theft.

The DLE views this legislation as directly supporting our mission to protect public safety by ensuring that vehicles on our roadways remain properly and clearly identifiable.

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

DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA LAWELawe KUPA
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

ADMINISTRATION

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KIMBERLY HASHIRO
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PO'O

MEGAN JOHNSON
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
HOPE PO'O



March 10, 2025

The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair
The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation
and Culture and the Arts
State Capitol, Conference Room 224
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Senate Committee on
Transportation and Culture and the Arts,

SUBJECT: H.B. No. 228, H.D. 1 - Relating To License Plates
HEARING: Tuesday, March 11, 2025, 3:00 p.m.

The City and County of Honolulu, Department of Customer Services (CSD),
Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV), respectfully offers comments to H.B. No. 228, H.D. 1,
Relating to License Plates. CSD DMV appreciates the intent of the proposed legislation
and the opportunity to offer the following comments for your committee's consideration.

Section 1 of the bill proposes to allow the counties to adopt rules authorizing the
use of an electronic license plate in lieu of one or both physical license plates currently
issued in the City and County of Honolulu by CSD DMV. While CSD DMV appreciates
the intent to allow each county to adopt rules relating to electronic license plates, if the
CSD DMV is delegated administrative rulemaking authority, CSD DMV will require
adequate time to research and consider implementation requirements in order to
proceed to promulgate such administrative rules. CSD DMV would not be prepared to
immediately implement the usage of electronic license plates in the City and County of
Honolulu. Therefore, CSD DMV appreciates the ability to promulgate administrative
rules and implement the usage of electronic license plates in a manner and time to be
determined by CSD DMV in its discretion.

Testimony for H.B. No. 228, H.D. 1
March 10, 2025
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Sections 2 and 3 of the bill propose to prohibit the operation of a motor vehicle with a license plate flipping device and to prohibit intentionally obscuring a vehicle's license plate through the use of a cover or shield. CSD DMV appreciates the intent of the proposed legislation and supports the proposed sections regarding the prohibition of license plate flipping devices and prohibition of intentional obscuring of a vehicle's license plate.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on H.B. No. 228, H.D. 1.

Sincerely,



Kimberly M. Hashiro
Director

HB-228-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/8/2025 9:39:07 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/11/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
M. Leilani DeMello	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I OPPOSE this bill.

Mahalo,

M. Leilani DeMello

‘Ōla‘a, Puna, Hawai‘i

HB-228-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 12:20:50 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/11/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
TIM REIMER	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This Bill, referring to license plate covers , is not even worth the time to review it. We spend our money on personalized License Plates for our cars . Daily driven cars are subject to mud, red dust, rocks and many other objects striking the front of the cars, including damaging our personalized license plates that we waited for and pay extra for. It should be our choice to protect our Expensive License Plates and should not be decided by others .My testimony is Negative, let us protect our Expensive License Plates with a cover ..