

C. Kimo Alameda, Ph.D.  
Mayor



Benjamin T. Moszkowicz  
Police Chief

William V. Brillhante Jr.  
Managing Director

Reed K. Mahuna  
Deputy Police Chief

## County of Hawai`i

### POLICE DEPARTMENT

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February 5, 2025

Representative Darius K. Kila  
Chairperson and Committee Members  
Committee on Transportation  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813

RE: HOUSE BILL 230; RELATING TO TRAFFIC CITATIONS  
HEARING DATE: FEBRUARY 6, 2025  
TIME: 10:00 AM

Dear Representative Kila:

The Hawai`i Police Department **strongly opposes** House Bill 230, with its purpose to require a carbon copy of a citation to be sent by certified or registered mail, with a return receipt that is postmarked within an unidentified timeframe of the time of the incident, to the registered owner of the vehicle at the address on record at the vehicle licensing division.

The Hawai`i Police Department strongly opposes this bill's provision if it is requiring law enforcement to send a carbon copy of citations to the registered owner of a vehicle. This mandate adds unnecessary complexity and burdens to an already strained system, diverting law enforcement resources away from core duties. The strict timelines for certified or registered mail, combined with the risk of delays and errors, could unfairly penalize vehicle owners who may not have been involved in the violation. Furthermore, with the growing adoption of electronic citation systems, which eliminate the need for carbon copies and physical mailing, this bill represents a step backward in efficiency and modernity.

The bill also fails to consider that vehicle ownership does not necessarily correlate with the driver's actions, making it unjust to hold the registered owner responsible for a violation they did not commit. Mailing certified or registered copies of citations introduces unnecessary costs and administrative burdens, ultimately putting additional strain on taxpayers. I urge the committee to reconsider this provision in favor of more efficient, modern solutions, such as electronic citations, which ensure faster, error-free communication and reduce the burden on law enforcement and the public.

It is for these reasons, we urge this committee **not to approve** this legislation. Thank you for allowing the Hawai`i Police Department to provide comments relating to House Bill 230.

Sincerely,

FOR BENJAMIN T. MOSZKOWICZ  
POLICE CHIEF

Testimony of Matson Navigation Company, Inc.  
Support of HB230  
Before the Committee on Transportation  
February 6, 2025

Dear Chair Kila, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and Members of the Committee:

Matson Navigation Company, Inc. (Matson) supports HB230, which ensures due process by requiring the police department to send a copy of a traffic citation to the registered owner of a vehicle within a specified time frame.

Matson containers are transported on frames called chassis. These chassis are hooked up to the tractor trailer which hauls the container and chassis to its destination. While Matson owns the chassis and container, it does not own the tractor trailer. Accordingly, if a driver receives a citation for any chassis-related violation, Matson often does not receive a copy of the citation. Matson sometimes receives a notice of court appearance, which can arrive in the mail *after* the court hearing date, or in many instances just a notice of default judgment. Requiring the police department to send a copy of the citation to the registered owner for all citations would ensure proper notice and therefore due process is given.

Matson respectfully requests that this measure be amended to also require copies of parking citations be sent to registered owners of vehicles.

Thank you for considering our testimony in support.

**HB-230**

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 2:32:22 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/6/2025 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b>  | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>       |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Nelson Heekahaunaele | Individual          | Support                   | Remotely Via<br>Zoom |

Comments:

I support. This bill would have helped me when I let my cousin's friend use my car. We didn't know he got a parking ticket and then it went to collections.

**HB-230**

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:48:54 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/6/2025 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Roy Tanaka          | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong support for HB230. I believe this bill would significantly improve our traffic citation process by ensuring that a carbon copy of any citation is promptly mailed to the registered owner of the vehicle. Receiving certified or registered mail creates a verifiable paper trail, which protects both the State and vehicle owners from disputes over whether a citation was properly delivered. For ohana like mine with kupuna, timely, transparent notification is essential. It spares them the anxiety of facing unexpected and unjustly inflated fees.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB230 so that local families are not burdened by late notices they never had a chance to contest. Mahalo for considering my testimony and for your commitment to improving our laws for the benefit of all residents.