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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | KA 'OIHANA ALAKAU
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February 13, 2025
2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 329

H.B. 697, H.D. 1
RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION

House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

The Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) **supports H.B. 697, H.D. 1**, which allows authorized employees of the HDOT and Department of Law Enforcement to inspect and provide a certificate of certain evidence of speed limit violations obtained by automated speed enforcement systems. Appropriate funds to the HDOT to establish and implement the automated speed enforcement systems program.

With the success of the two-year pilot program, the HDOT is looking to implement on neighbor islands, where appropriate, and having staff at the state level will help facilitate that and ensure consistent application of the law.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2025**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 697, H.D. 1, RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

DATE: Thursday, February 13, 2025 **TIME:** 2:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 325

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
Denise W.M. Wong, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Tarnas and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General offers the following comments.

The bill amends section 291L-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), to allow, in addition to county police departments, authorized employees of the Department of Transportation and of the Department of Law Enforcement to inspect and provide a certificate of certain evidence of speed limit violations obtained by automated speed enforcement systems. This bill proposes to amend "reviewing county police department" in section 291L-4(c) to "reviewing entity" with that term defined to include the authorized employees of those two state departments in addition to the county police department.

Section 291L-5, HRS, provides for the mailing of a summons or citation to the registered owner of any motor vehicle that is determined, by means of an automated speed enforcement system, to have exceeded the posted maximum speed limit by not less than five miles per hour in violation of section 291C-108, HRS. Section 291L-5(d) provides that, "[b]efore mailing the summons or citation for a traffic infraction pursuant to subsection (a), the applicable county police department shall review and verify the validity of the clear and unobstructed photographic, digital, or other visual image of the license plate of the motor vehicle required under this section." If authorized employees of the Department of Transportation or the Department of Law Enforcement provide the certificate of evidence pursuant to section 291L-4(c) for a particular motor vehicle, we

believe that it would facilitate processing if the pertinent employees of those two state departments would also be authorized to do the review and verification required by section 291L-5(d) before a summons or citation is mailed to the registered owner of the involved motor vehicle. Consequently, we suggest that section 291L-5(d) be amended to replace "applicable county police department" with "reviewing entity."

Furthermore, the bill's definition of "reviewing entity" on page 1, lines 14-16, is applicable only to section 291L-4(c), HRS, and is not defined to apply also to section 291L-5(d). Therefore, the definition of "reviewing entity" should be made applicable for the purposes of chapter 291L, HRS, and not solely for section 291L-4(c), HRS.

Thank you for considering these comments.



Testimony of the Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization

Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

02/13/25 2:00 PM

CR 325 & Videoconference

HB 697 HD1

Relating to Transportation

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Committee Members,

The Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization (OahuMPO) **supports HB697 HD1** which allows authorized employees of the Department of Transportation and Department of Law Enforcement to inspect and provide a certificate of certain evidence of speed limit violations obtained by automated speed enforcement systems and appropriates funds to the Department of Transportation to establish and implement the automated speed enforcement systems program.

This bill supports our 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 State of Hawaii Department of Transportation is working to expand the automated speed enforcement system, which will require the addition of staff within the Department of Transportation as well as Department of Law Enforcement. Additional staff will enable review of evidence and processing of citations efficiently, alleviating potential staffing challenges within county police departments.

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.

HB-697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:05:00 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael A. Cobb Jr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill that incentivises the state and counties to use speed cameras to generate revenue off of motor vehicle operators only. This will not make our streets safer, more money for the government for sure. You do not charge e-bikes, mopeds, and other vehicles for running red lights only larger vehicles. You also do not enforce the pedestrian laws, just pick on motor vehicle operators. The Van Cam was very unpopular, why go down the same path again. This will not solve the problem. I do not want this on our roadways. Please start with illegal motor vehicle impoundment and a crack down on illegal pedestrian crossing. Do not pass this bill.

HB-697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:19:41 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I see an abuse of this sytem and consider it a violation of privacy.

HB-697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:35:33 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan Willis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose

Overreach