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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

February 21, 2025  
12:00 P.M.  
State Capitol, Room 308

**H.B. 697, H.D. 2**  
**RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION**

House Committee on Finance

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The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports H.B. 697, H.D. 2**, which allows authorized employees of the DOT 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 DOT to establish and implement the automated speed enforcement systems program.

With the success of the two-year pilot program, the DOT 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 Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization

### Committee on Finance

**02/21/25 12:00 PM  
CR 308 & Videoconference**

**HB 697 HD2  
Relating to Transportation**

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

The Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization (OahuMPO) **supports HB697 HD2** which allows authorized employees of the Department of Transportation and Department of Law Enforcement, in addition to county police departments, to perform certain actions in reviewing recorded images produced 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-2**

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:54:53 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tommy Hanohano	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support this bill in its present form and content. This speed camera bill and others related to it should be killed. Reasons being it is not fair and will cost the citizens of the state a lot of money. We are already the #1 most costly state to live in. We citizens do not need any more cost burdens on us. This is a pure money grab and does nothing to improve our roadways. As ED SNIFFEN OF THE DOT stated cameras caught over 22,000 citizens weekly speeding during the test phase. That's 22,000 x \$300.00 a citation. That's 6,600,000 dollars collected from citizens of the state. Just for going a few miles above the speed limit. We all know that a few miles above the speed limit does not cause collisions and death. Most people travel 10-15 mph over the speed limit daily with the flow of traffic with no accidents or death. It's the irresponsible drivers who travel at excessive speeds such as 25 mph (excessive speeding) over the limit that are the real dangers. Drunk drivers, racers, unlicensed drivers, red light runners are the real problem. A camera taking photos does not make the roads safe, most drivers won't get the citations for weeks after the incident. A police officer visible on patrol slows people down. Next, not all drivers are registered owners of their vehicles. It's not fair that a registered owner gets the citation and not the driver. The driver should be cited not the registered owner. Head of households with large families have 5-7 cars registered to themselves, obviously that person is not driving all of those cars. Business owners have many vehicles registered to them, rent a cars, trusts, etc. Should they pay the fines for violations that were not done by them? NO! What about all the unregistered, transfer pending and out dated information vehicles? None of them will pay the fines and continue to speed. Hire more Police Officers to patrol and cite the drivers they stop and not the registered owners of the vehicles. As a Police officer for 31 years I have stopped many cars not everyone deserves a citation, many breaks were given to doctors, nurses rushing to the hospital or an emergency surgery or procedure, people rushing patients to hospitals and animals to vets, people with emergencies were given a break. The cameras don't have an ability to do that. Not everyone deserves a citation there are exceptions and gray areas. In all of my career I have never issued a citation for any speed less than 12 MPH over the speed limit. The judges and prosecutors frowned upon issuing speeding citations of 1 mph to 11 mph over the limit. The cameras should only be used for red lights and not expanded to speeding. I do not approve of any DOT civilian employee to review, issue citations or see sensitive personal information of registered owners confidential address and names. Only sworn Law enforcement officers should have access to that private sensitive information.

**HB-697-HD-2**

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 7:32:48 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2025 12:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Natalie Iwasa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed to more government cameras, especially when they assume someone is guilty right off the bat.

**HB-697-HD-2**

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 8:35:49 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2025 12:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Raimar Bylaardt II	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am against automated systems to control speed limits and red lights. It costs a lot of money to make and maintain and removes the human judgment of the police officer from the occasion, which always varies. It will also impeded with the good flow of transit.

thanks

Raimar Bylaardt