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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 10, 2025
3:01 P.M.
State Capitol, Room 308

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

House Committees on Transportation and Culture and the Arts and
Public Safety and Military Affairs

The Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) **supports H.B. 697, H.D. 2**, 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.

During the first week the speed cameras were activated, the cameras captured 74,000 vehicles traveling 5 miles per hour (mph) over the speed limit and nearly 19,000 traveling 11 mph over the speed limit. Without this critical piece to expand staffing, the program may not have the capability to issue the citations timely.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



The Judiciary, State of Hawai'i

Testimony to the Thirty-Third State Legislature, 2025 Session

Senate Committee on Transportation & Culture and the Arts

Senator Chris Lee, Chair

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Public Safety & Military Affairs

Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Chair

Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Monday, March 10, 2025, 3:01 p.m.
Conference Room 225 & Via Videoconference

By:

Michelle D. Acosta
Deputy Chief Court Administrator
District Court of the First Circuit

Bill No. and Title: House Bill No. 697, H.D. 2 – Relating to Transportation

Purpose: 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. Appropriates funds to the Department of Transportation to establish and implement the Automated Speed Enforcement Systems Program. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD2)

Judiciary's Position:

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

Based on available data, the 10 intersections with 17 existing red-light photo detection systems in Honolulu issued an average 1,991 citations per month in 2024. In a recent KHON2 News story from January 2025 it was reported that during a one-week period the automated



House Bill No. 697, H.D. 2, Relating to Transportation
Senate Committee on Transportation & Culture and the Arts
Senate Committee on Public Safety & Military Affairs
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speed camera system recorded 22,000 vehicles exceeding the posted speed limit by at least 11 miles per hour. The Judiciary is concerned about the effects the potential volume of citations will have on the district courts.

This measure requests the authority for Department of Transportation and/or Department of Law Enforcement personnel to review recorded images because the anticipated volume of citations will be overwhelming to county law enforcement. The Judiciary is equally concerned that the district courts will be overwhelmed, and critical resources will have to be diverted. The district courts are responsible for the adjudication of these citations.

Currently, the third-party vendor selected by the Department of Transportation provides electronic copies of traffic citations to the district courts. However, the Judiciary's Information Management System (JIMS) is not currently equipped to pull data from the law enforcement citations and transfer the data into court records. Instead, all of the information in the citations (name, address, driver's license number, location of the offense, vehicle make and model, vehicle license plate, etc.) is manually entered by court staff into JIMS, similar to the way that handwritten notes on a receipt need to be manually entered into a billing system in order to create an invoice. Once that information is manually entered by court staff, court staff then processes requests for hearings and written statements from motorists contesting the citations or explaining mitigating circumstances, schedules court dates, and prepares minutes from court hearings. A dramatic increase in traffic citations would overwhelm already overstretched court resources, potentially to the detriment of other types of cases heard by district court and could also result in the backlog of processing these citations

The Judiciary requests that the Department of Transportation work closely with the Judiciary to ensure that the district courts will have the equivalent capacity to process the increase of citations.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
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KE KIA'ĀINA



MIKE LAMBERT
DIRECTOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT GOVERNOR
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STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
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Deputy Director
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TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 697, HOUSE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION
Before the Senate Committee on
TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS,
PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
Monday, March 10, 2025, 3:01 PM
State Capitol Conference Room 225 & Videoconference
WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Chairs Lee, Elefante, Vice Chairs Inouye, Wakai, and members of the Committee:

The Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) supports House Bill 697, House Draft 2. This bill would allow authorized employees of the Department of Transportation and the Department of Law Enforcement, in addition to county police departments, to perform certain actions in reviewing recorded images produced by automated speed enforcement systems. The bill also appropriates funds to the Department of Transportation to establish and implement the Automated Speed Enforcement Systems Program.

The DLE recognizes the critical importance of traffic safety enforcement in protecting the lives of Hawaii's residents and visitors. Speeding remains one of the leading causes of traffic fatalities and serious injuries on our roadways. Automated speed enforcement systems have proven effective in reducing speeding violations and improving overall traffic safety in jurisdictions where they have been properly implemented.

By expanding the review authority to include DLE employees, this bill will enhance our department's ability to fulfill its mandate of enforcing state laws and protecting public safety. It will create a more efficient system for processing violations captured by these devices, allowing for better utilization of law enforcement resources while maintaining appropriate oversight.

The DLE supports this collaborative approach to traffic safety that coordinates efforts between state and county agencies. This alignment of resources will improve the consistency and effectiveness of speed enforcement throughout the state while allowing each agency to contribute its specific expertise to the enforcement process.

The appropriation for establishing and implementing the Automated Speed Enforcement Systems Program is essential to ensure proper deployment, maintenance, and management of these systems. This investment in public safety infrastructure will yield significant returns in terms of reduced crashes, injuries, and fatalities on Hawaii's roadways.

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

HB-697-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 12:23:31 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/10/2025 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carl Imperato	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this measure. Speeding on Kauai's highways is rampant, and speeders violate the speed limit with impunity with no fear of any consequences due to our limited number of police officers.

Therefore, an Automated Speed Enforcement Systems Program is sorely needed to address this problem.

There is no valid reason why anyone who does not violate our important traffic safety laws should be opposed to the Program, as it is currently designed.

Please approve HB697 HD2; and if necessary, add language to ensure that the Automated Speed Enforcement Systems Program will be immediately implemented on the neighbor islands, not just Oahu.

HB-697-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 11:27:04 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/10/2025 3:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

This Bill , Auto Speed Enforcement Systems, is not advisable to implement. One, millions have been spent on the system . Two, using twenty HPD Officers , @ 40,000 per year salary will drain the State Funds at close to a million dollars for only a day shift. If this system is used at night , double the amount for the twenty Officers to pay for the night shift officers reviewing the Speed Cam Monitors. Per California, references , you can not cite the registered owner without positively Identifying him or her. If contested in court , once they say it wasn't me driving the car that day, the ticket is deleted . If this issue is reviewed for the tickets paying for the system , it will be suspended, just like areas in California were, plus the millions allocated for it, will bring so much negative attention Oahu will be embarrassed and investigated, possibly for Fraud Waste and Abuse . Negative Testimony Today