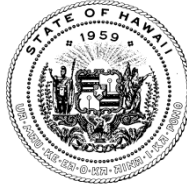


d JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

Deputy Directors
Nā Hope Luna Ho'okele
DREANALEE K. KALILI
TAMMY L. LEE
CURT T. OTAGURO
ROBIN K. SHISHIDO

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | KA 'OIHANA ALAKAU
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

February 27, 2025
2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 325

H.B. 226 H.D. 2 RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES

House Committee Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

The Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) **supports H.B. 226 H.D. 2**, which prohibits a person from installing, mounting, adhering, affixing, or using any sun screening device in conjunction with the glazing material of a motor vehicle with mirrored, metallic, red, yellow, amber, or blue tint. Requires all drivers and passengers of motor vehicles with applied tint to roll down their windows when stopped by a law enforcement officer at a traffic stop. Lowers the minimum light transmittance levels for sun screening devices on certain motor vehicles. Exempts side windows to the rear of the driver and rear windows on sedans from sun screening device requirements. Increase the minimum and maximum fines for violating sun screening device requirements.

The HDOT supports keeping the 35 percent light transmittance requirement for the front side wing vents and windows and not require sedans to have 35 percent light transmittance for side windows that are to the rear of the driver and rear windows, similar to vans, minivans, trucks, and buses. Additionally, the HDOT would like to recommend removing Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) 291-21.5(e)(8) as it conflicts with HRS 291-21.5(e)(9).

The HDOT also recommend the windows to which the tint has been applied to shall be rolled down when the motor vehicle is stopped by a law enforcement officer at a traffic stop.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

February 11, 2025

Testimony in Support of HB226 HD1 – Relating to Windshield Tinting

Dear Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Chun, and Members of the CPC Committee,

I am writing in strong support of HB226 HD1, which seeks to regulate motor vehicle sun screening devices to enhance road safety, improve law enforcement interactions, and reduce interior heat caused by climate change.

Reasons for Support:

1. **Enhanced Road Safety** – Prohibiting mirrored, metallic, and certain colored tints helps prevent visibility issues and ensures safer road conditions for all drivers and pedestrians.
2. **Improved Law Enforcement Transparency** – Requiring drivers and passengers to roll down their windows at traffic stops promotes safer interactions between law enforcement and the public.
3. **Climate Change Adaptation** – Lowering the minimum light transmittance levels will help reduce vehicle interior heat and help with UV protection.
4. **Balanced Regulations** – The bill provides reasonable exemptions for rear windows while ensuring that front and side visibility remains compliant with safety standards.
5. **The current law is discriminatory against passenger vehicle owners** and it has been difficult to explain to passenger vehicle owners why they are not allowed to install window film as dark as they have on the rear windows of their MPV's. Our state allows the same "Type 3" driver's license to operate both Passenger Vehicles and MPV's, so it is illogical to have two different tint standards for these two categories of vehicles– these bills clear this up

As a driver/community member, I believe these measures will significantly benefit Hawai'i's motorists and contribute to overall public safety. I respectfully ask the committee to pass HB226 HD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Tracy Rodrigues,
President/RME
T&T Tinting Specialists, Inc.



73-5621 Maiau Street
808-333-5733
KalokoTinting.com



February 25, 2025

Testimony from Cheyanne Kahele

In **SUPPORT** of HB 226

To the Honorable Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair, and esteemed members of the committee,

My name is Cheyanne Kahele, and I am the owner of Kaloko Tinting, a professional window tinting business serving the island of Hawai'i. Our company has been serving Hawaii for 5 years and I have a decade of experience within the industry.

I strongly believe that this bill will benefit the community members, HPD, businesses operating safety check inspection stations, as well as our window tinting business in Hawaii.

Benefits to the community members: Clear and uniform guidelines for clients looking to protect themselves and vehicles from UV and IR sun damage. Having a uniform code for passenger vehicles removes current discriminatory restrictions. Clients who can only afford to purchase a passenger car vs. an MPV should be allowed the same level of protection for their passengers. With advancements in vehicle headlights being brighter than ever, clients with passenger cars should have the ability to block out the blinding glare from vehicle headlights traveling behind them, especially being that they are the most affected vehicles of this hazard. The ban of colored, metallic and mirrored tint removes confusion of what is legal and safe for passengers and other drivers. We often dissuade our clients from any type of colored or mirrored tint because of the hazards it can create for HPD and other drivers and do not offer any such products so this bill will support our knowledge and experience of safe tinting installations. Many of our clients install window tint for increased privacy and safety of themselves and their belongings. Having a slightly darker shade of tinting on their vehicles can increase the safety from potential break-ins, dangers of traveling alone and for those who are most vulnerable, our kupuna and keiki.

Benefits to HPD: Requiring drivers and passengers to roll down their windows completely will increase safety for our officers at traffic stops, allowing them to assess potential threats and dangers during their interactions. Adjusted fines will encourage compliance



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with the window tinting laws, thus reducing the number of citations HPD needs to address. This bill would also remove any ambiguity to the window tinting law, allowing HPD the ability to easily identify illegal tint and enforce regulations, reducing disputes over compliance.

Benefits to Safety Check Inspection Stations: This bill would provide clarity to safety check inspection stations allowing for easier compliance checks. Banning mirrored, reflective and colored tint will provide clear laws to follow and reduce subjective decision making. Current tint laws lead to confusion and frustration from clients and safety check inspectors and this bill would eliminate concerns of improperly approved vehicles. Having a uniform code for passenger cars and MPVs encourages compliance, reduces confusion and allows for increased enforcement of safe window tint installations.

Benefits to window tinting businesses: This bill would be beneficial to our window tinting businesses in Hawaii. It will encourage clients to choose professional companies instead of underground/unregulated non-compliant tinting jobs, strengthening industry credibility and promoting legitimate businesses over unregulated services. Having a uniform tinting code and banning colored and reflective tint will reduce customer confusion and increase clients' confidence in our knowledge of safe window tint installations. This bill would make Hawaii tinting laws in line with many other states, attracting more clients who are looking for effective heat rejection and protection for their vehicles. This bill would also reduce frustration for clients who have existing tint done in other states, that do not comply with our current legal limits and eliminate confusion because of discriminatory laws for owners of passenger vehicles.

For these reasons, I am in support of HB226 and believe that this bill will be beneficial to our communities and those that serve our communities. I humbly ask for this bill to be adopted and thank you for your time and efforts.

Mahalo,

Cheyenne Kahele
Kaloko Tinting LLC

HB-226-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 10:06:32 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/27/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Harp	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I Support HB226.

I believe window tint should be darker due to hotter weather. Even though a vehicle has air conditioning vehicle is still hot on the inside. 35% isn't that dark and heat still penetrates it as if it's a window with no tint.

Mahalo for your time.

Aloha, Jacob Harp

HB-226-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 11:57:38 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/27/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julia Collins	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of HB226

Dear Honorable Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair and Committee Members

I am writing to express my strong support for Bill HB226, which seeks to address the growing concerns related to sun screening devices, specifically those with mirrored, metallic, red, yellow, amber, or blue tint, on motor vehicles.

The provision is also requiring drivers and passengers to fully roll down their windows when stopped by law enforcement. This enhances the safety of these interactions and helps to maintain transparency during traffic stops.

Additionally, HB226 appropriately recognizes the need for balance, as it exempts side windows to the rear of the driver and rear windows on sedans from the sun screening device requirements. This ensures that drivers can still enjoy comfort and protection from the sun while maintaining public safety standards. The bill also lowers the minimum light transmittance levels for certain vehicles, providing a fairer, more consistent standard that ensures safety without infringing upon individual choice.

The increase in fines for violating these requirements is also an important step in encouraging compliance with the law. By creating more substantial consequences for violations, this bill provides stronger deterrents against the misuse of sun screening devices while protecting the integrity of law enforcement practices.

In conclusion, HB226 addresses a critical issue with a balanced approach that promotes road safety, supports law enforcement, and ensures fair regulations for vehicle owners. I urge the Committee to pass this bill and help create safer conditions for everyone on the road.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Julia Collins

Resident of Kailua Kona, Hawaii

HB-226-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 1:56:45 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/27/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel Rogerson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of HB226

Dear Honorable Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair and Committee Members

I am writing to express my strong support for Bill HB226, which seeks to address the growing concerns related to sun screening devices, specifically those with mirrored, metallic, red, yellow, amber, or blue tint, on motor vehicles.

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Additionally, HB226 appropriately recognizes the need for balance, as it exempts side windows to the rear of the driver and rear windows on sedans from the sun screening device requirements. This ensures that drivers can still enjoy comfort and protection from the sun while maintaining public safety standards. The bill also lowers the minimum light transmittance levels for certain vehicles, providing a fairer, more consistent standard that ensures safety without infringing upon individual choice.

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In conclusion, HB226 addresses a critical issue with a balanced approach that promotes road safety, supports law enforcement, and ensures fair regulations for vehicle owners. I urge the Committee to pass this bill and help create safer conditions for everyone on the road.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Rachel Rogerson

Resident of Kailua Kona, Hawaii

HB-226-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 5:51:06 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/27/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Murphy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my opposition to HB226, the proposed legislation that would increase the allowable window tinting levels for automobiles in Hawai'i. While I understand that some drivers prefer darker tint for privacy or comfort, increasing tint levels could have serious safety implications for both motorists and law enforcement.

Excessively dark window tint reduces visibility, especially at night or in poor weather conditions, increasing the risk of accidents. Drivers may struggle to see pedestrians, cyclists, and other vehicles, which can lead to increasingly dangerous situations on the road. Additionally, first responders rely on clear visibility into vehicles during traffic stops or emergency situations to assess potential threats and ensure public safety.

Current regulations, though they are often ignored, strike a reasonable balance between driver comfort, safety, and law enforcement needs. Loosening these restrictions could make roads more hazardous and complicate routine traffic stops. Rather than increasing allowable tint levels, I encourage lawmakers to focus on enforcing existing laws to maintain safety for all road users.

For these reasons, I urge you to vote **NO** on HB226. Thank you for your time and consideration of this important issue.