



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

January 28, 2025  
10:00 A.M.  
State Capitol, Room 430

**H.B. 226**  
**RELATING TO WINDSHEILD TINTING**

House Committee on Transportation

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The Department of Transportation (DOT) **opposes** H.B. 226, which lowers the level of light transmittance allowed on sun screening glazing on motor vehicle window from 35 percent to 20 percent.

The DOT opposes this bill as this would not comply with the minimum light transmittance requirements under 49 Code of Federal Regulations section 393.60(d), Coloring or tinting of windshields and windows, which requires the parallel luminous transmittance through the colored or tinted glazing is not less than 70 percent (30 percent tint) of the light at normal incidence in those portions of the windshield or windows which are marked as having a parallel luminous transmittance of not less than 70 percent.

Additionally, darker tint can reduce visibility, making it harder for drivers to see vulnerable roadway users such as pedestrians, bicyclists, and others especially at night. It may also hinder vulnerable road users and other drivers from observing the driver's awareness or intent, increasing the risk of miscommunication on the road.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



January 27, 2025

**Testimony of Tommy Silva  
In support of H.B. No. 226  
Relating to Motor Vehicle Sun Screening Devices.**

Good morning Senate Transportation Committee Chair Rep. Darius Kila, Vice Chair Rep. Tina Nakada Grandinetti and Honored Members of the House Transportation Committee;

My name is Tommy Silva and I am the Founder of T&T Tinting Specialists, Inc. I want to testify in support of H.B. No. 226.

Our company has been tinting vehicle windows in Hawaii since 1982 and we have 30 full-time employees working in two Honolulu locations. I have always been an advocate for safe & legal tinting standards, and I have testified at the Capitol dozens of times over the past 41 years in support of our current Hawaii State Tint Law H.R.S. 291-21.5 along with our current methods of enforcement through annual Vehicle Safety Inspection and HPD citations for violations found on the street.

Our current auto tint law has been on the books since July 13, 1983. It currently allows 35% (+/- 6%) Visible Light Transmittance for "Passenger Vehicles" windows (except for the front windshield), while windows rear of the driver on Pickup Trucks, Vans, SUV's and "Crossovers" (collectively called "MPV's" going forward) have been exempt from the ruling when the MPV is equipped with two side-view mirrors.

I fully support HB #226 because the current law is discriminatory against passenger vehicle owners and it is 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.

In past sessions (Feb. 9, 2021), I read opposing testimony from the State DOT & HPD, and while I highly respect those offices and hold their exact same highest regard for public safety, they mention the passage of this bill creating unsafe conditions on the roadways are totally unfounded.

Fact is that *almost 50%* of the vehicles on Oahu's roadways today are Trucks, Sport Utility Vehicles, Vans and Crossovers (categorized as MPV's). **All of which already have tint darker than 35% on their rear windows from the factory.** There is zero evidence, statistical data or reports that confirm that these MPV vehicles are any more dangerous on the street or have been in more accidents than their "passenger vehicle" counterparts.

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Hawaii is not the first State to bring parity to Passenger Vehicle and MPV after-market window tinting... Passage of this bill will put Hawaii into the same status of many other states who already allow the same level of after-market window tinting on Passenger Vehicles as MPV's such as California, Kentucky, Missouri, Montana, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, Oklahoma, Texas, Florida and Vermont.

I humbly request that you vote to pass this bill.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tommy Silva,  
Founder  
T&T Tinting Specialists, Inc.