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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 12, 2025
2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 430

H.B. 228, H.D. 1
RELATING TO LICENSE PLATES

House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

The Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) **supports H.B. 228, H.D. 1**, which authorizes the counties to adopt rules for the use of electronic license plates. Prohibits the use of license plate flipping devices. Establishes minimum fines for intentionally obscuring a license plate with a cover or shield.

The HDOT supports this measure to prohibit the use of license plate flipping devices and establish minimum fines for those who use a license plate cover as these will impact the automated enforcement program.

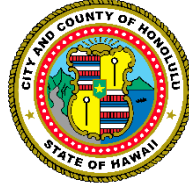
Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA LAWELawe KUPA
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

ADMINISTRATION

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February 11, 2025

The Honorable David A. Tarnas, Chair
The Honorable Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair
and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
and Hawaiian Affairs
State Capitol, Conference Room 325
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee
on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

SUBJECT: H.B. No. 228, H.D. 1 - Relating To License Plates
HEARING: Wednesday, February 12, 2025, 2:00 p.m.

The City and County of Honolulu, Department of Customer Services (CSD),
Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV), respectfully offers comments to H.B. No. 228, H.D. 1,
Relating to License Plates. CSD DMV appreciates the intent of the proposed legislation
and the opportunity to offer the following comments for your committee's consideration.

Section 1 of the bill proposes to allow the counties to adopt rules authorizing the
use of an electronic license plate in lieu of one or both physical license plates currently
issued in the City and County of Honolulu by CSD DMV. While the CSD DMV
appreciates the intent to allow each county to adopt rules relating to electronic license
plates, if the CSD DMV is delegated administrative rulemaking authority, CSD DMV will
require adequate time to research and consider implementation requirements in order to
proceed to promulgate such administrative rules. CSD DMV would not be prepared to
immediately implement the usage of electronic license plates in the City and County of
Honolulu. Therefore, CSD DMV appreciates the ability to promulgate administrative
rules and implement the usage of electronic license plates in a manner and time to be
determined by DMV's discretion.

Testimony for H.B. No. 228, H.D. 1
February 11, 2025
Page 2

Sections 2 and 3 of the bill propose to prohibit the operation of a motor vehicle with a license plate flipping device and to prohibit intentionally obscuring a vehicle's license plate through the use of a cover or shield. The DMV appreciates the intent of the proposed legislation and supports the proposed sections regarding the prohibition of license plate flipping devices and prohibition of intentional obscuring of a vehicle's license plate.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on H.B. No. 228, H.D. 1.

Sincerely,

Kimberly M. Hashiro
Director Designate

HB-228-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 7:38:06 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I Strongly Oppose

HB-228-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 8:51:10 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I Strongly Oppose

HB-228-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 9:23:02 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Nanea Lo, and **I am writing in strong support of HB228**, which seeks to prohibit license plate flipping devices and establish fines for intentionally obstructing a license plate. As a Kanaka Maoli, a resident of Mō‘ili‘ili, a board member of the Hawai‘i Workers Center, and a member of the Sierra Club of Hawai‘i’s Executive Commission, I am committed to policies that enhance public safety, transparency, and accountability on our roads.

License plate flipping devices and other forms of intentional obstruction undermine law enforcement efforts, road safety, and community trust. These devices can be used to evade tolls, avoid detection in traffic violations, or even facilitate criminal activity. By prohibiting their use and establishing clear penalties, HB228 ensures that all vehicles on Hawai‘i’s roads are held to the same standard of accountability.

This measure is a necessary step in strengthening enforcement and promoting fair and responsible vehicle operation in our islands. I urge the Committee to pass HB228 to help maintain integrity and safety on our roadways.

Me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo

Mō‘ili‘ili, HI 96826

Sierra Club of Hawai‘i Executive Commission Member

Board Member, Hawai‘i Workers Center

Kanaka Maoli / Lineal Descendant of the Hawaiian Kingdom