

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 HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | KA 'OIHANA ALAKAU  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

March 18, 2025  
3:00 p.m.  
State Capitol, Room 224

**H.B. 235, H.D. 1  
RELATING TO TRAFFIC SAFETY**

Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts

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The Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) **supports the intent** of H.B. 235, H.D. 1, which requires the HDOT to expand the use of photo red light imaging detector systems and automated speed enforcement systems to locations on the North Shore of Oahu.

The HDOT plans to begin expanding the effective photo red light imaging detector systems and implementing the automated speed enforcement systems statewide this year. The HDOT will use the same criteria, used to pick the pilot locations, to select future locations. The criteria included number of crashes caused by drivers who disregarded the traffic signal, volume of traffic, as well as traffic citations for disregarding the signal.

While we support the intent of this bill to install the automated photo enforcement program on the North Shore, the HDOT stresses the importance of using the same selection criteria statewide to ensure consistency within the program. This consistency is also vital during contested court cases as the data will need to justify the selection of the location.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

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



MIKE LAMBERT  
DIRECTOR

SYLVIA LUKE  
LT GOVERNOR  
KE KE'ENA

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT**  
*Ka 'Oihana Ho'okō Kānāwai*  
715 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

JARED K. REDULLA  
Deputy Director  
Law Enforcement

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 235, HOUSE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO TRAFFIC SAFETY  
Before the Senate Committee on  
TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS  
Tuesday, March 18, 2025, 3:00 PM  
State Capitol Conference Room 224 & Videoconference  
**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and members of the Committee:

The Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) supports House Bill 235, House Draft 1, which requires the Department of Transportation to expand the use of photo red light imaging detector systems and automated speed enforcement systems to locations on the North Shore of Oahu.

This bill seeks to enhance traffic safety monitoring systems in the North Shore area by implementing both red light cameras and automated speed enforcement technology. These systems have proven effective in deterring dangerous driving behaviors and reducing traffic collisions in other locations.

The DLE recognizes that expanding these automated enforcement systems to the North Shore addresses a critical public safety need. This area experiences significant traffic congestion, particularly during peak tourism seasons, and has seen concerning patterns of speeding and red-light violations that endanger residents, visitors, and other motorists.

Automated traffic enforcement systems provide consistent, unbiased enforcement that can operate around the clock without requiring constant police presence. This allows our officers to focus on other critical public safety duties while still maintaining traffic safety enforcement. The systems also create a deterrent effect that ultimately leads to improved driver behavior and reduced traffic violations.

We believe this measure complements our existing traffic safety efforts and aligns with our mission to protect public safety throughout Hawaii. The implementation of these systems, in accordance with chapters 291J and 291L of the Hawaii Revised Statutes, will provide the necessary framework for effective and fair enforcement.

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



*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

Tuesday, March 18, 2025, 3:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 224 & Via Videoconference

By:

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

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**Bill No. and Title:** House Bill No. 235, H.D. 1, Relating to Traffic Safety

**Purpose:** Requires the Department of Transportation to expand the use of photo red light imaging detector systems and automated speed enforcement systems to locations on the North Shore of O'ahu. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

**Judiciary's Position:**

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

The Judiciary appreciates the Committee on Transportation's amendment to Section 2 (b), line 4 page 2 of House Bill No. 235, H.D. 1, which requires the Department of Transportation to seek input from the Judiciary when selecting locations. However, the Judiciary continues to have concerns regarding the expansion of the red light imaging detector systems and automated speed enforcement systems to the North Shore of O'ahu. The Department of Transportation currently has red light detectors in 10 downtown Honolulu locations. These generate approximately 2,000 citations for red light violations per month. These citations are manually processed by the Traffic Violations Bureau staff at the Honolulu District Court. Expansion of the camera systems to the North Shore of O'ahu would require the citations to be manually processed by the Wahiawa District Court staff. Manual processing by staff would be necessary because the computer system(s) currently used by law enforcement to electronically



generate the citations are not integrated with the Judiciary's computer system(s).

The photo red light detector system coupled with the automated speed enforcement systems may overwhelm the limited number of court staff at the existing Wahiawa District Court. The Judiciary would need ample time to work with the Department of Transportation on its expansion plans for both of its traffic enforcement camera systems and build up the court's capacity to efficiently process the citations.

While the district court receives the citations from the third-party vendor electronically, court staff are needed to ensure that the data received is accurate and processed accordingly. The Judiciary's Information Technology Systems Department (ITSD) is currently looking for technological solutions to manage the high capacity of these traffic enforcement systems to generate citations. Until such a solution can be implemented, the limited court staff at the Wahiawa District Court would be responsible for manual processing written statements, issuing default judgments and setting hearings for motorists who request a hearing or wish to proceed to trial.

The Judiciary requests that any expansion of the red light and/or speed camera system take into consideration the impact on the Judiciary and allow adequate time for the court to prepare both its technological solution and human resource capacity.

The Judiciary would request an effective date of January 1, 2027.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



## Testimony of the Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization

### Senate Committee on Transportation & Culture and the Arts

03/18/2025 3:00PM

CR 224 & Videoconference

**HB235 HD1**

**Relating to Traffic Safety**

Dear Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Committee Members,

The Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization (OahuMPO) **supports HB235 HD1** which requires the Department of Transportation to expand the use of photo red light imaging detector systems and automated speed enforcement systems to locations on the North Shore of Oahu.

This bill supports the 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 OahuMPO supports the expansion of the red-light imaging detector and automated speed enforcement systems to additional locations to curtail poor driving behaviors including speeding and running red lights.

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-235-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2025 2:26:12 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/18/2025 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Edgardo Diaz Vega	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I urge you to support this proposal for red light imaging detection and automated speed enforcement systems for the North Shore of Oahu. Automatic enforcement helps enforce traffic laws consistently and without the need for police presence. Driving through red lights or at excessive speeds is a common practice among drivers, but one which represents grave risk to the health and safety of drivers themselves and others.

People drive to visit the North Shore for its breathtaking views of the natural scenery and this proposal helps make the journey on those roads safer for all. The installation of these systems in the North Shore of Oahu will help push drivers to better respect traffic laws, subsequently preventing injuries and saving lives.