



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

March 28, 2025
2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 430

**S.B. 1095, S.D. 1, H.D. 1
RELATING TO LICENSE PLATES**

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

The Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) **has concerns regarding** S.B. 1095, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, which removes the decal size restrictions for special number plates.

The HDOT is concerned with decal size, as increasing the size or placement of the decal may inadvertently affect the size of the license plate characters and numbers. This may have an impact on the automated enforcement programs which efficiently enforce against dangerous behaviors such as speeding and running red lights. It may also impact the license plate readers used by the police departments.

Currently, Hawaii follows the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators' recommendation to ensure optimal readability by the human eye and license plate reader when identifying the correct vehicle record, which specifies that graphics or decal size restrictions for special number plates can be on either the right or left side of the license plate number.

All graphics should be restricted to an area that will not interfere with meeting size and spacing requirements of the license plate number. Graphics can stretch from the edge of the license plate to within 0.25 inch from the closest character of the license plate number, the jurisdiction name, or approved message and to the top and bottom of the license plate.

Characters are at least 2.5 inches in height, proportionally wide, and spaced no less than 0.25 inches apart. Character stroke weight (thickness of lines) is between 0.2 and 0.4 inches. Characters are positioned on the license plate no less than 1.25 inches away from the top and bottom edges of the license plate.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.