



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

**LATE**

February 4, 2025  
10:00 A.M.  
State Capitol, Room 224

**S.B. 485  
RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES**

Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts

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The Department of Transportation (DOT) has **comments on S.B. 485** which decreases the exempted light transmittance for motor vehicle sun screening devices on front side wing vents and windows from thirty-five per cent to twenty per cent plus or minus six per cent, decreases the exempted light transmittance for motor vehicle sun screening devices on side and rear windows necessary for driving visibility from thirty-five per cent to five per cent plus or minus six per cent, and repeals the requirement that a front number plate be affixed to the front of a motor vehicle.

The DOT recommends:

- Keeping the thirty-five percent light transmittance requirement for the front side wing vents and windows.
- Not require sedans to have thirty-five percent light transmittance for side windows that are to the rear of the driver and rear windows, similar to vans, minivans, trucks, and buses.
- 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.

HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT  
KA 'OIHANA MĀKA'I O HONOLULU  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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OUR REFERENCE JS-TK

February 4, 2025

The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair  
and Members  
Committee on Transportation and  
Culture and the Arts  
State Senate  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 224  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Lee and Members:

SUBJECT: Senate Bill No. 485, Relating to Motor Vehicles

I am James Slayter, Major of the Traffic Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD opposes Senate Bill No. 485, Relating to Motor Vehicles.

The HPD opposes the proposal to decrease the exempted light transmittance for motor vehicle sun screening devices on front side wing vents and windows from 35 percent to 20 percent plus or minus 6 percent. The decrease of the exempted light transmittance for motor vehicle sun screening devices on the side and rear windows are necessary for driving visibility from 35 percent to 5 percent plus or minus 6 percent; and a repeal of the requirement that a front number plate be affixed to the front of a motor vehicle.

Light transmittance of anything less than 35 percent would pose a hazard for the driver and occupants of the vehicle. It impedes the vision of the driver even more so when encountering inclement weather. Lack of visibility during the night heightens the danger for the occupants of the vehicle and those who share the roadway with them. Eye contact with other drivers is key when approaching intersections or performing maneuvers that require hand signals or nonverbal communication with other drivers or pedestrians. Window tints less than 35 percent transmission would hinder this communication. The reduced visibility into the vehicle during a traffic stop is also an increased officer safety risk.

The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair  
and Members  
February 4, 2025  
Page 2

The elimination of the requirement for a front or rear license plate decreases our ability to identify vehicles involved in criminal activity by one-half. Some of our best leads are based on the identification of a suspect vehicle using the front or rear license plate. An example is when pedestrians may only see the front license plate before being struck, or in a fled scene crash where the suspect vehicle's plate fell off from the impact. If there were no witnesses to the collision, the elimination of one license plate would remove another tool to aid us in identifying a suspect.

Lastly, the front license plate is used as a reflective material for speed laser devices used during speed enforcement. Eliminating the front license plate will also affect our current and future projects such as the Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) and the Red Light Enforcement cameras. The full capability of the ALPR is its ability to read license plates coming toward and away from the officer's vehicle. We would lose 50 percent of the recoverable data without a front license plate, thus potentially reducing the recoveries of stolen vehicles.

The HPD urges you to oppose Senate Bill No. 485, Relating Motor Vehicles, and we appreciate the committee's consideration of these concerns. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

  
for James Slayter, Major  
Traffic Division

APPROVED:

  
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for Arthur J. Logan  
Chief of Police