

Mitchell D. Roth
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January 29, 2024

Senator Chris Lee, Chair
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts

Hawai'i State Legislature
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Subject: S.B. 2201 RELATING TO NUMBER PLATES
Hearing Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2024, at 3:00 p.m.
Time/Place of Hearing: Via Videoconference, Conference Room 224

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and members of the Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts,

The County of Hawai'i strongly supports this proposed bill. Hawai'i Revised Statutes § 249-9(a)(1) provides that all license plates shall bear the word "Hawaii" along the upper portion of the plate and the words "Aloha State" along the lower portion of the plate. As written, the existing law does not permit the inclusion of the 'okina in the word "Hawaii". This measure seeks to remedy that omission.

Act 170, passed by the legislature in 2022, mandates the use of Hawaiian diacritical markings in Hawaiian names and words on official state and county letterhead. We support broader implementation of Hawaiian diacritical marks across government, including our state vehicle license plates.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of S.B. 2201.

Sincerely,

Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor
County of Hawai'i

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

ADMINISTRATION
925 DILLINGHAM BOULEVARD, SUITE 257 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817
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RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR
MEIA

KIMBERLY HASHIRO
DIRECTOR
PO'O

DEREK MAYESHIRO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
HOPE PO'O



January 29, 2024

The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair
The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair
And Members of the Committee on Transportation
And Culture and the Arts
State Capitol, Conference Room 224
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee on
Transportation and Culture and the Arts,

SUBJECT: S.B. 2201 - Relating to License Plates
HEARING: Tuesday, January 30, 2024, 3:00 p.m.

Pursuant to Section 6-402 of the Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu, the Department of Customer Services (CSD) administers the motor vehicle registration program for the island of Oahu, including the issuance of license plates.

Every license plate is required by law to have the word "Hawaii" along the top center of the license plate. Unfortunately, the statute does not spell "Hawaii" with an 'okina. This bill will ensure that the word is correctly spelled "Hawai'i".

This bill will also allow the word "Hawai'i" and the phrase "Aloha State" to be in either upper or lower case to increase design options for future license plates.

Two years ago, the Legislature passed Act 170 which requires Hawaiian diacritical markings in Hawaiian names and words in official State and County letterhead. We support further expansion of the use of Hawaiian diacritical marks in other aspects of government, including our State license plates. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support for this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kimberly M. Hashiro".

Kimberly M. Hashiro
Director

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

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
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LATE

RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR
MEIA



ARTHUR J. LOGAN
CHIEF
KAHU MĀKA'I

KEITH K. HORIKAWA
RADE K. VANIC
DEPUTY CHIEFS
HOPE LUNA NUI MĀKA'I

OUR REFERENCE **ST-TK**

January 30, 2024

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

Dear Chair Lee and Members:

SUBJECT: Senate Bill No. 2201, Relating to Number Plates

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

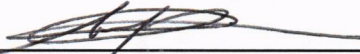
The HPD opposes Senate Bill No. 2201, Relating to Number Plates.

The HPD opposes the proposal for the use of okinas and different-sized letters on license plates. This will affect the readability of the license plate, especially at a distance. In addition, license plates can also be used in other states where certain markings may not be recognizable. This would also be contrary to current law which requires letters/numerals to be three inches.

The HPD urges you to oppose Senate Bill No. 2201, Relating Number Plates. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

APPROVED:

Sincerely,


Arthur J. Logan
Chief of Police


Stason Tanaka, Major
Traffic Division



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE & THE ARTS
Tuesday, January 30, 2023 — 3:00 p.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports SB 2201, Relating to Number Plates.

Dear Chair Lee and Members of the Committee:

My name is Micah Munekata, and I am the Director of Government Affairs at Ulupono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-focused impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life throughout the islands by helping our communities become more resilient and self-sufficient through locally produced food, renewable energy and clean transportation choices, and better management of freshwater resources.

Ulupono supports SB 2201 and offers amendments. This bill requires license plates to include 'okina and authorizes the use of all uppercase letters, all lowercase letters, or initial capital letters in motor vehicle license plates.

Ulupono supports the effort to require 'okina and allow for lettering options on Hawai'i's license plates. Should this measure move forward, we ask that the committee consider adding language into the measure to allow for specialty license plates to be dedicated to electric vehicles. Reducing the use of fossil fuels in ground transportation aligns with the State's commitment to meeting a zero emissions clean economy by 2045. As we look to support the adoption of electric vehicles across the state, additional incentives, such as dedicated license plates, could be a helpful tool for our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i