

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



TESTIMONY BY:
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

Deputy Directors
Nā Hope Luna Ho'okele
DREANALEE K. KALILI
TAMMY L. LEE
ROBIN K. SHISHIDO

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

March 14, 2024
10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, RM 312

S.B. 2735, S.D. 1
RELATING TO DRIVER LICENSING

House Committee on Transportation

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports S.B. 2735, S.D. 1**, which requires driver's license examination to test the applicant's knowledge of the dangers that larger motor vehicles present to pedestrians. Requires offenders who are found to be excessively speeding or driving while intoxicated to retake and pass their driver's license examination for each offense.

We believe this bill will reduce motor vehicle fatalities and injuries by deterring dangerous driving behaviors. The inconvenience of having to retake the driver licensing exam will hopefully make drivers more responsible. Additionally, educating new drivers about the potential hazards of driving a larger motor vehicle can assist with pedestrian safety.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



Testimony of the Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization

House Committee on Transportation

03/14/24 10:00AM

CR 016 & Videoconference

SB 2735 SD1

RELATING TO DRIVER LICENSING

Dear Chair Todd, Vice Chair Kila, and Committee Members,

The Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization (OahuMPO) **supports SB 2735 SD1** which would require the driver's license examination to test the applicant's knowledge of the dangers that larger motor vehicles present to pedestrians and bicyclists and would require offenders who are found to be excessively speeding or driving while intoxicated to retake and pass the driver's license examination for each offense. The implementation of this measure supports a major goal of our long-range plan to increase the safety of the transportation system.

In 2023, nearly a third of all traffic deaths in Hawaii involved a pedestrian or bicyclist. As of March 6, 2024, the Hawaii State Department of Transportation indicated over a third of traffic fatalities in Hawaii have involved a pedestrian. While the number of fatalities has decreased since the same period in 2023, the proportion involving pedestrians has increased. Providing educational opportunities to make drivers in training aware of the dangers larger motor vehicles pose to pedestrians and bicyclists will hopefully assist in trending fatalities to zero by 2050, a goal indicated in our long-range plan.

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) that encourages and promotes a safe and efficient transportation system to serve the mobility needs of people and freight (including walkways, bicycles, and transit), fosters economic growth and development, and takes into consideration resiliency needs, while minimizing fuel consumption and air pollution ([23 CFR 450.300](#)).

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.