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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | KA 'OIHANA ALAKAU
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February 13, 2024
3:05 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 224

S.B. 2308
RELATING TO SPEEDING

Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts

The Hawaii Department of Transportation **supports S.B. 2308**, related to speeding. This bill proposes to establish additional fines and penalties for convictions of speeding in school zones.

Last year, we witnessed another horrific tragedy when Sara Yara was killed just outside of her high school by a speeding driver who ran a red light. This tragedy, and so many other speed-related fatalities and injuries, continues to impact our families and communities. Each of these senseless tragedies could have been prevented if drivers obeyed Hawaii's traffic laws.

According to preliminary 2023 state data, 57 percent (54 out of 94) of Hawaii's traffic fatalities were speed-related, compared to 41 percent (48 out of 116) in 2022. Additionally, grant-funded 2023 data shows that 329 citations were issued statewide for speeding in construction/school zones, compared to 224 issued in 2022.

Currently under section 291C-104, Hawaii Revised Statutes, any person violating this section shall be fined \$250. Establishing the additional fines and penalties for this section could serve as a stronger deterrent to drivers choosing to engage in risky driving behavior and subsequently, spare our families and communities the pain of losing loved ones.

We respectfully urge the Committee to pass this proposed bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
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Date: 02/13/2024

Time: 03:05 PM

Location: CR 224 & Videoconference

Committee: Senate Transportation and
Culture and the Arts

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 2308 RELATING TO SPEEDING.

Purpose of Bill: Establishes additional fines and penalties for convictions of speeding in a school zone.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports SB 2308.

The Department is committed to providing a safe and secure educational environment. One that includes a school's designated drop-off and pick-up areas. School zones by design are planned to help ensure students arrive at and leave school safely. The most common contributing factors noted in school zone-related accidents are speed and distracted drivers. Even though speed reduction laws in school zones already exist, nationwide, approximately 25,000 students are still injured in these types of accidents each year. Increasing or adding fines for those convicted of speeding in a school zone will help to deter motorists from committing future violations.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.