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February 27, 2024
10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 016

S.B. 2735
RELATING TO DRIVER LICENSING

Senate Committee on Judiciary

The Hawaii Department of Transportation **supports S.B. 2735**, 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

Senate Committee on the Judiciary

02/27/24 10:00AM

CR 016 & Videoconference

Measure SB 2735 RELATING TO DRIVER LICENSING

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members,

The Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization (OahuMPO) **supports Measure SB 2735 with a recommendation.**

The implementation of this measure supports a major goal of our long-range plan to increase the safety of the transportation system. SB 2735 would require a driver's license examination to test the applicant's knowledge of the dangers that larger motor vehicles present to pedestrians and 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 appreciate the focus on increasing awareness of pedestrians and recommend that the committee consider language to include bicyclists who are also vulnerable road users.

As such, the OahuMPO would like to offer the following recommendation to further improve the bill, and increase safety for all vulnerable road users:

- Section 1(4) currently reads: "*The applicant's knowledge of the dangers that large vehicles, including trucks, pose to pedestrians.*" We recommend adding the words "and bicyclists" at the end of the sentence.

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.