



TESTIMONY BY:
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
DREANALEE K. KALILI
TAMMY L. LEE
ROBIN K. SHISHIDO
JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

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3:00 PM
State Capitol, Room 224 & Videoconference

S.B. 810
RELATING TO TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES

Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **opposes** S.B. 810 requiring newly installed or replaced speed limit signs display speeds in both kilometers per hour (km/h) and miles per hour (mph) for the following reasons:

1. Displaying two speed limits at the same time can be misinterpreted by roadway users. Misinterpretation of speeds at decision points or changes in roadway conditions (e.g., freeway off-ramps, crosswalks, curves, etc.) increase the potential for crashes caused by unintentional speeding, or vehicle slowdowns;
2. The DOT uses the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) for the design and installation of signs. The MUTCD is a nationally recognized standard developed by the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration and is adopted by the State of Hawaii for traffic control devices on public roads. The standardized sizes, shapes, and colors (i.e., speed limit and warning signs) in the MUTCD are not designed to fit two different types of speed measurements and requires speed limits be displayed in multiples of 5 mph only; and
3. The increase in size of sign may make it difficult or not possible to install due to limited space on our roadway to accommodate a larger signpost structure that complies with new higher wind loading standards.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.