



The Judiciary, State of Hawai'i

Testimony to the Thirty-Third State Legislature, 2025 Session

Senate Committee on Transportation & Culture and the Arts

Senator Chris Lee, Chair

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Public Safety & Military Affairs

Senator Brandon J. C. Elefante, Chair

Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Monday, March 10, 2025, 3:01 p.m.
Conference Room 225 & Via Videoconference

By:

Michelle D. Acosta
Deputy Chief Court Administrator
District Court of the First Circuit

Bill No. and Title: Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 23

Purpose: REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT TO STUDY THE POSSIBILITY OF A HIGHWAY PATROL AND SPEED CAMERAS ALONG MAJOR FREEWAYS AND HIGHWAYS IN PRIMARY AREAS OF SPEEDING.

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary respectfully requests that the study required by this resolution also includes the impacts a highway patrol and speed cameras along the major freeways and highways would have on the district courts. The district courts are responsible for the adjudication of citations.

Based on available data, the 10 intersections with 17 existing red-light photo detection systems in Honolulu issued an average 1,991 citations per month in 2024. In a recent KHON2 News story from January 2025 it was reported that during a one-week period the automated



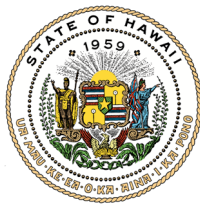
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speed camera system recorded 22,000 vehicles exceeding the posted speed limit by at least 11 miles per hour. The Judiciary is concerned about the effects the potential volume of citations will have on the district courts.

Currently, the third-party vendor selected by the Department of Transportation provides electronic copies of traffic citations to the district courts. However, the Judiciary's Information Management System (JIMS) is not currently equipped to pull data from the law enforcement citations and transfer the data into court records. Instead, all of the information in the citations (name, address, driver's license number, location of the offense, vehicle make and model, vehicle license plate, etc.) is manually entered by court staff into JIMS, similar to the way that handwritten notes on a receipt need to be manually entered into a billing system in order to create an invoice. Once that information is manually entered by court staff, court staff then processes requests for hearings and written statements from motorists contesting the citations or explaining mitigating circumstances, schedules court dates, and prepares minutes from court hearings. A dramatic increase in traffic citations would overwhelm already overstretched court resources, potentially to the detriment of other types of cases heard by district court and could also result in the backlog of processing these citations

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



MIKE LAMBERT
DIRECTOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT GOVERNOR
KE KE'ENA

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
Ka 'Oihana Ho'okō Kānāwai
715 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

JARED K. REDULLA
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

TESTIMONY ON SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 23
RELATING TO HIGHWAY PATROL AND SPEED CAMERAS

Before the Senate Committee on

TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS

PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Monday, March 10, 2025, 3:01 PM

State Capitol Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Chairs Lee, Elefante, Vice Chairs Inouye, Wakai, and members of the Committee:

The Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) submits comments on Senate Concurrent Resolution 23. This resolution requests the Department of Transportation and the Department of Law Enforcement to study the possibility of highway patrol and speed cameras along major freeways and highways in primary areas of speeding.

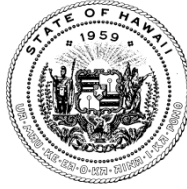
The DLE recognizes the importance of addressing traffic safety concerns and reducing speeding on our major roadways. Excessive speed continues to be a significant factor in traffic collisions resulting in serious injuries and fatalities throughout the state. A comprehensive study examining the effectiveness of enhanced highway patrol presence and automated speed enforcement technologies could yield valuable insights into potential traffic safety improvements.

Should this resolution be adopted, the DLE is prepared to collaborate with the Department of Transportation to conduct the requested study. We would bring our expertise in traffic enforcement, data analysis, and knowledge of best practices from other jurisdictions to evaluate the feasibility, costs, benefits, and operational implications of expanded highway patrol and speed camera implementation.

The DLE notes that any implementation of recommendations arising from such a study would require careful consideration of staffing resources, equipment needs, training requirements, and potential budgetary impacts. Additionally, the study should examine compliance with existing laws and administrative rules, privacy considerations, and public acceptance of automated enforcement technologies.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on this resolution.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
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STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | KA 'OIHANA ALAKAU
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March 10, 2025
3:01 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 225

S.C.R. 23

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT TO STUDY THE POSSIBILITY OF A HIGHWAY PATROL AND SPEED CAMERAS ALONG MAJOR FREEWAYS AND HIGHWAYS IN PRIMARY AREAS OF SPEEDING

Senate Committees on Transportation and Culture and the Arts and
Public Safety and Military Affairs

The Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) **supports S.C.R. 23**, which requests the HDOT and Department of Law enforcement (DLE) to study the possibility of a highway patrol and speed cameras along major freeways and highways in primary areas of speeding.

The HDOT will work with the DLE to determine how speed cameras are possible, and how we work closer with PD to ensure targeted enforcement. Studies have shown that high visibility enforcement does have an impact in reducing undesirable driver behavior. Hawaii's own automated enforcement cameras have shown major reductions in red light violations and believes that the automated speed enforcement will have a similar impact.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

SCR-23

Submitted on: 3/8/2025 9:44:07 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/10/2025 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
M. Leilani DeMello	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I OPPOSE this bill.

Mahalo,

M. Leilani DeMello

‘Ōla‘a, Puna, Hawai‘i

TO: Members of the Committees on Transportation and Culture and the Arts and
Public Safety and Military Affairs

FROM: Natalie Iwasa
808-395-3233 (Do not Redact)

HEARING: 3:01 p.m. Monday, March 10, 2025

SUBJECT: Resolution SCR 23, Highway Patrol and Speed Cameras - **OPPOSED**

Aloha Chairs Lee and Elefante and Committee Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on Resolution SCR 23, which asks the Departments of Transportation and Law Enforcement to study the possibility of a highway patrol and speed cameras along major freeways and highways in primary areas of speeding.

Please, no more government-controlled cameras watching members of the public.

Please vote “no” on SCR 23.

SCR-23

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 12:08:42 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/10/2025 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
TIM REIMER	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

First you requested ten HPD Officers to monitor the Speed Cams located in town. This could cost 500,000 a year, in wages to pay those ten officers . Next you , changed to twenty officers for the Speed Cams in town, now the yearly wages for twenty officers watching Speed Cam Monitors, all day long increased to close to a million dollars. Oh, you want to use the Speed Cam System to continue at night also, you will be spending close to two million dollars in wages to HPD Police Officers watching monitors , during day and night shifts. Do you really think you can support this system by citing possibly the registered owner but sometimes a friend or relative was driving the car . The registered owner is not responsible so now the citation will be involving a court visit to contest the citation and probably getting the citation thrown out of court. My Testimony is to save the state money wasted on the implementation of Speed Cams and the Millions of dollars spent on HPD daily night shift and day shift officers , watching Speed Cam Monitors and not enforcing laws on our streets . Testimony is negative because of excessive funds need ed to operate this Speed Cam System on city streets or freeway...