

JAN 23 2026

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION SAFETY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that vehicles having a
2 hood height greater than forty inches are forty-five per cent
3 more likely to kill pedestrians after striking them, because the
4 impact is closer to the head or torso rather than with lower
5 vehicles. The legislature also finds that the penalties for
6 excessive speeding and driving while intoxicated may include
7 fines or license suspension.

8 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require:

- 9 (1) The examiner of drivers to test driver license
10 applicants on knowledge of the dangers that larger
11 motor vehicles, including trucks and sport utility
12 vehicles, pose to pedestrians and bicyclists; and
13 (2) Persons who commit the offense of excessive speeding
14 or habitually operating a vehicle under the influence
15 of an intoxicant to pass a driver's license
16 examination following each offense.



1 SECTION 2. Section 286-108, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended as follows:

3 1. By amending subsection (a) to read:

4 "(a) Except as provided in section 286-107.5(a) [~~7~~] or any
5 other provision of this part, the examiner of drivers shall
6 examine every applicant for a driver's license [~~7~~, ~~except as~~
7 ~~otherwise provided in this part~~]. The examination shall include
8 a test of:

- 9 (1) The applicant's eyesight and any further physical
10 examination that the examiner of drivers finds
11 necessary to determine the applicant's fitness to
12 operate a motor vehicle safely upon the highways;
- 13 (2) The applicant's ability to understand highway signs
14 regulating, warning, and directing traffic;
- 15 (3) The applicant's knowledge of the rules of the road
16 based on the traffic laws of the State and the traffic
17 ordinances of the county where the applicant resides
18 or intends to operate a motor vehicle; provided that
19 the examination shall specifically test the
20 applicant's knowledge of the provisions of [~~section~~]
21 sections 291C-121.5 and [~~section~~] 291C-137; [~~and~~]



1 (4) The applicant's knowledge of the dangers that large
2 vehicles, including trucks, pose to pedestrians and
3 bicyclists; and

4 [~~4~~] (5) The actual demonstration of ability to exercise
5 ordinary and reasonable control in the operation of a
6 motor vehicle.

7 The examinations shall be appropriate to the operation of the
8 category of motor vehicle for which the applicant seeks to be
9 licensed and shall be conducted as required by the director.

10 The examiner of drivers shall require every applicant to
11 comply with section 286-102.5.

12 The examiner of drivers may waive the actual demonstration
13 of ability to operate a motorcycle or motor scooter for any
14 person who furnishes evidence, to the satisfaction of the
15 examiner of drivers, that the person has completed the
16 motorcycle education course approved by the director in
17 accordance with section 431:10G-104.

18 For the purposes of this section, [~~the term~~] "applicant"
19 does not include any person reactivating a license under section
20 286-107.5(a)."

21 2. By amending subsection (c) to read:



1 "(c) The examiner of drivers may waive the written or oral
2 examination required under subsection (a)(2) [~~and~~], (3), and 4
3 and the actual demonstration of ability to operate a motor
4 vehicle for any person who:

5 (1) Is at least eighteen years of age and [~~who~~] possesses
6 a valid driver's license issued to the applicant in
7 any other state of the United States, the District of
8 Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, American
9 Samoa, Guam, a province of the Dominion of Canada, or
10 the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for
11 the operation of vehicles in categories 1 through 3 of
12 section 286-102;

13 (2) Has completed the same requirements as set forth in
14 section 286-102.6(f) in another state and possesses a
15 valid provisional license from that state; or

16 (3) Is at least eighteen years of age and [~~who~~] possesses
17 a valid driver's license issued to the applicant in
18 any jurisdiction for which the director has granted
19 reciprocal licensing privileges in accordance with
20 section 286-101.5 for the operation of vehicles in
21 category (3) of section 286-102(b)."



1 SECTION 3. Section 291C-105, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 "**§291C-105 Excessive speeding.** (a) No person shall drive
4 a motor vehicle at a speed exceeding:

5 (1) The applicable state or county speed limit by thirty
6 miles per hour or more; or

7 (2) Eighty miles per hour or more irrespective of the
8 applicable state or county speed limit.

9 (b) For the purposes of this section, "the applicable
10 state or county speed limit" means the maximum speed limit
11 established:

12 (1) By county ordinance;

13 (2) By official signs placed by the director of
14 transportation on highways under the director's
15 jurisdiction; or

16 (3) Pursuant to section 291C-104 by the director of
17 transportation or the counties for school zones and
18 construction areas in their respective jurisdictions.

19 (c) Any person who violates subsection (a) shall be guilty
20 of a petty misdemeanor and shall be sentenced as follows without
21 the possibility of probation or suspension of sentence:



1 (1) For a first offense not preceded by a prior conviction
2 for an offense under subsection (a) in the preceding
3 five years:

4 (A) A fine of not less than \$500 and not more than
5 \$1,000;

6 (B) Thirty-day prompt suspension of license and
7 privilege to operate a vehicle during the
8 suspension period, or the court may impose, in
9 lieu of the thirty-day prompt suspension of
10 license, a minimum fifteen-day prompt suspension
11 of license with absolute prohibition from
12 operating a vehicle and, for the remainder of the
13 thirty-day period, a restriction on the license
14 that allows the person to drive for limited work-
15 related purposes;

16 (C) Attendance in a course of instruction in driver
17 retraining;

18 (D) A surcharge of \$25 to be deposited into the
19 neurotrauma special fund under section 321H-4;

20 (E) [A] If the court so orders, a surcharge of not
21 more than \$100 to be deposited into the trauma



- 1 system special fund under section 321-22.5[~~if~~
2 ~~the court so orders~~];
- 3 (F) An assessment for driver education pursuant to
4 section 286G-3; and
- 5 (G) Either one of the following:
- 6 (i) Thirty-six hours of community service work;
7 or
8 (ii) Not less than forty-eight hours and not more
9 than five days of imprisonment; and
- 10 (2) For an offense that occurs within five years of a
11 prior conviction for an offense under subsection (a):
- 12 (A) A fine of not less than \$750 and not more than
13 \$1,000;
- 14 (B) Prompt suspension of license and privilege to
15 operate a vehicle for a period of thirty days
16 with an absolute prohibition from operating a
17 vehicle during the suspension period;
- 18 (C) Attendance in a course of instruction in driver
19 retraining;
- 20 (D) A surcharge of \$25 to be deposited into the
21 neurotrauma special fund under section 321H-4;



1 (E) [A] If the court so orders, a surcharge of not
2 more than \$100 to be deposited into the trauma
3 system special fund under section 321-22.5[~~if~~
4 ~~the court so orders~~];

5 (F) An assessment for driver education pursuant to
6 section 286G-3; and

7 (G) Either one of the following:

8 (i) Not less than one hundred twenty hours of
9 community service work; or

10 (ii) Not less than five days but not more than
11 fourteen days of imprisonment of which at
12 least forty-eight hours shall be served
13 consecutively.

14 (d) Notwithstanding subsection (c), any person who
15 violates subsection (a) within five years of two prior
16 convictions for the same offense shall be guilty of a
17 misdemeanor and shall be sentenced as follows without the
18 possibility of probation or suspension of sentence:

19 (1) A mandatory minimum jail sentence of thirty days;



- 1 (2) Revocation of license and privilege to operate a
2 vehicle for a period of not less than ninety days but
3 not more than six months;
4 (3) Attendance in a course of instruction in driver
5 retraining;
6 (4) A surcharge of \$25 to be deposited into the
7 neurotrauma special fund under section 321H-4;
8 (5) A surcharge of not more than \$100 to be deposited into
9 the trauma system special fund under section 321-22.5,
10 if the court so orders;
11 (6) An assessment for driver education pursuant to section
12 286G-3; and
13 (7) That the vehicle used in the commission of the offense
14 be subject to forfeiture under chapter 712A, if the
15 court so orders."

16 (e) In addition to any penalties imposed by this section,
17 any person who violates this section shall be required to pass a
18 driver's license examination as provided in section 286-108."

19 SECTION 4. Section 291E-61.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
20 amended to read as follows:



1 "§291E-61.5 Habitually operating a vehicle under the
2 influence of an intoxicant. (a) A person commits the offense
3 of habitually operating a vehicle under the influence of an
4 intoxicant if:

5 (1) The person is a habitual operator of a vehicle while
6 under the influence of an intoxicant; and

7 (2) The person operates or assumes actual physical control
8 of a vehicle:

9 (A) While under the influence of alcohol in an amount
10 sufficient to impair the person's normal mental
11 faculties or ability to care for the person and
12 guard against casualty;

13 (B) While under the influence of any drug that
14 impairs the person's ability to operate the
15 vehicle in a careful and prudent manner;

16 (C) With .08 or more grams of alcohol per two hundred
17 ten liters of breath; or

18 (D) With .08 or more grams of alcohol per one hundred
19 milliliters or cubic centimeters of blood.

20 (b) Habitually operating a vehicle while under the
21 influence of an intoxicant [~~is~~] shall be a class C felony.



- 1 (c) For a conviction under this section, the sentence
2 shall be either:
- 3 (1) An indeterminate term of imprisonment of five years;
4 or
- 5 (2) A term of probation of five years, with conditions to
6 include:
- 7 (A) Mandatory revocation of license to operate a
8 vehicle for a period no less than three years but
9 no more than five years, with mandatory
10 installation of an ignition interlock device in
11 all vehicles operated by the respondent during
12 the revocation period;
- 13 (B) No less than ten days imprisonment, of which at
14 least forty-eight hours shall be served
15 consecutively;
- 16 (C) A fine of no less than \$2,000 but no more than
17 \$5,000, to be deposited into the drug and alcohol
18 toxicology testing laboratory special fund;
- 19 (D) Referral to a certified substance abuse counselor
20 as provided in subsection (e);



1 (E) A surcharge of \$25 to be deposited into the
2 neurotrauma special fund; and

3 (F) A surcharge of up to \$50 to be deposited into the
4 trauma system special fund if the court so
5 orders.

6 In addition to the foregoing, any vehicle owned and operated by
7 the person committing the offense shall be subject to forfeiture
8 pursuant to chapter 712A.

9 (d) For any person who is convicted under this section and
10 was a highly intoxicated driver at the time of the subject
11 incident, the offense shall be a class B felony and the person
12 shall be sentenced to the following:

13 (1) An indeterminate term of imprisonment of ten years; or

14 (2) A term of probation of five years, with conditions to
15 include the following:

16 (A) Permanent revocation of license to operate a
17 vehicle;

18 (B) No less than eighteen months imprisonment;

19 (C) A fine of no less than \$5,000 but no more than
20 \$25,000; and



1 (D) Referral to a certified substance abuse counselor
2 as provided in subsection (e).

3 In addition to the foregoing, any vehicle owned and operated by
4 the person who committed the offense shall be subject to
5 forfeiture pursuant to chapter 712A.

6 (e) Whenever a court sentences a person under this
7 section, it shall also require that the offender be referred to
8 the driver's education program for an assessment, by a certified
9 substance abuse counselor, of the offender's substance abuse or
10 dependence and the need for appropriate treatment. The
11 counselor shall submit a report with recommendations to the
12 court. The court shall require the offender to obtain
13 appropriate treatment if the counselor's assessment establishes
14 the offender's substance abuse or dependence. All costs for
15 assessment and treatment shall be borne by the offender.

16 (f) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary,
17 whenever a court revokes a person's driver's license pursuant to
18 this section, the examiner of drivers shall not grant to the
19 person a new driver's license until expiration of the period of
20 revocation determined by the court. After the period of
21 revocation is complete, and subject to subsection (h), the



1 person may apply for and the examiner of drivers may grant to
2 the person a new driver's license.

3 (g) Any person sentenced under this section may be ordered
4 to reimburse the county for the cost of any blood or urine tests
5 conducted pursuant to section 291E-11. The court shall order
6 the person to make restitution in a lump sum, or in a series of
7 prorated installments, to the police department or other agency
8 incurring the expense of the blood or urine test.

9 (h) In addition to any other penalty imposed by this
10 section, any person convicted of violating this section shall be
11 required to pass a driver's license examination as provided in
12 section 286-108.

13 [~~(h)~~] (i) As used in this section:

14 "Convicted one or more times for offenses of habitually
15 operating a vehicle under the influence" means that, at the time
16 of the behavior for which the person is charged under this
17 section, the person had one or more times within ten years of
18 the instant offense:

19 (1) A judgment on a verdict or a finding of guilty, or a
20 plea of guilty or nolo contendere, for a violation of



1 this section or section 291-4.4 as that section was in
2 effect on December 31, 2001;

3 (2) A judgment on a verdict or a finding of guilty, or a
4 plea of guilty or nolo contendere, for an offense that
5 is comparable to this section or section 291-4.4 as
6 that section was in effect on December 31, 2001; or

7 (3) An adjudication of a minor for a law or probation
8 violation that, if committed by an adult, would
9 constitute a violation of this section or section
10 291-4.4 as that section was in effect on December 31,
11 2001,

12 that, at the time of the instant offense, had not been expunged
13 by pardon, reversed, or set aside. All convictions that have
14 been expunged by pardon, reversed, or set aside before the
15 instant offense shall not be deemed prior convictions for the
16 purposes of proving the person's status as a habitual operator
17 of a vehicle while under the influence of an intoxicant.

18 "Convicted two or more times for offenses of operating a
19 vehicle under the influence" means that, at the time of the
20 behavior for which the person is charged under this section, the



1 person had two or more times within ten years of the instant
2 offense:

3 (1) A judgment on a verdict or a finding of guilty, or a
4 plea of guilty or nolo contendere, for a violation of
5 section 291E-61 or 707-702.5;

6 (2) A judgment on a verdict or a finding of guilty, or a
7 plea of guilty or nolo contendere, for an offense that
8 is comparable to section 291E-61 or 707-702.5; or

9 (3) An adjudication of a minor for a law or probation
10 violation that, if committed by an adult, would
11 constitute a violation of section 291E-61 or
12 707-702.5,

13 that, at the time of the instant offense, had not been expunged
14 by pardon, reversed, or set aside. All convictions that have
15 been expunged by pardon, reversed, or set aside before the
16 instant offense shall not be deemed prior convictions for the
17 purposes of proving that the person is a habitual operator of a
18 vehicle while under the influence of an intoxicant.

19 "Examiner of drivers" has the same meaning as provided in
20 section 286-2.



1 "Habitual operator of a vehicle while under the influence
2 of an intoxicant" means that the person was convicted:

3 (1) Two or more times for offenses of operating a vehicle
4 under the influence; or

5 (2) One or more times for offenses of habitually operating
6 a vehicle under the influence."

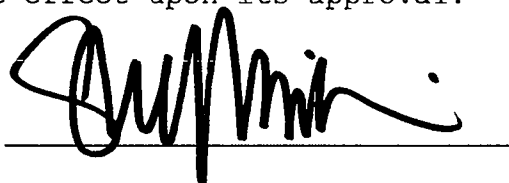
7 SECTION 5. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
8 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
9 begun before its effective date.

10 SECTION 6. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
11 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

12 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

13

INTRODUCED BY:



S.B. NO. 2812

Report Title:

Driver's License; License Examination; Excessive Speeding; DUI; Penalties

Description:

Requires testing of driver license applicants on the dangers that larger motor vehicles present to pedestrians and bicyclists. Requires persons who commit the offense of excessively speeding or habitually driving while intoxicated to pass the driver license examination for each offense.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

