STAND. COM. REP. NO. 2205

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 11 2026

RE: S.B. No. 2146
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Judiciary and Transportation, to which was referred S.B. No. 2146 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TRAFFIC INFRACTIONS,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to establish a Traffic Fines Task Force that will examine the Finnish tiered traffic fines system, determine whether a similar system could be implemented in the State, and provide recommendations as to how a system could be best implemented.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice, Hawai'i Bicycling League, and one individual.

Your Committees received comments on this measure from the Department of the Attorney General and one individual.

Your Committees find that scaled fines are a more effective deterrent than flat fines for traffic infractions. Your Committees further find that the scaled system for traffic fines used in Finland requires an offender to pay a fine proportional to their income. Consequently, wealthy offenders, who are largely unaffected by flat fines, pay higher fines in a scaled system. Your Committees also find that to implement a similar system in the State would require data collection and study. Accordingly,

this measure will convene a Traffic Fines Task Force to explore the feasibility of implementing a proportional traffic fines system or a similar system in the State.

Your Committees note the concerns expressed by the Department of the Attorney General that the majority of traffic infractions in the State are prosecuted by the county prosecuting attorneys' offices, rather than the Department of the Attorney General, and those offices are better suited to provide practical insight into how adjustments to the traffic fine system could impact the prosecution of traffic offenses. Your Committees further note the concerns that offenders cited for violating section 291C-104, Hawaii Revised Statues, for speeding in a school zone or construction area are assessed an additional surcharge that is deposited into the Safe Routes to School Program Special Fund, which is administered by the Department of Transportation. Since any modification to the traffic fines assessed for speeding violations may affect the Safe Routes to School Program Special Fund, the Department of Transportation should be a member of the Traffic Fines Task Force.

Accordingly, your Committees have amended this measure by:

(1) Including the Director of Transportation or their designee as a member of the Traffic Fines Task Force;

(2) Including the Prosecuting Attorney of each county or their designee as members of the Traffic Fines Task Force;

(3) Inserting a blank appropriation amount; and

(4) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

Your Committees note that this measure, as amended, contains unspecified appropriation amounts. Should your Committee on Ways and Means choose to deliberate on this measure, your Committees respectfully request that it consider an appropriation amount of $10,000.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Judiciary and Transportation that are attached to

this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2146, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2146, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committees on Judiciary and Transportation,

Transportation,

LORRAINE R. INOUYE, Chair

KARL RHOADS, Chair

The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Judiciary
JDC

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:
SB 2146	JDC/TRS, WAM	2/3/26

☐ The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.

If so, then the previous decision was to: _____

The Recommendation is:

☐ Pass, unamended 2312 ☑ Pass, with amendments 2311 ☐ Hold 2310 ☐ Recommit 2313

Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
RHOADS, Karl (C)	✓			
GABBARD, Mike (VC)	✓			
CHANG, Stanley	✓			
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A.	✓			
AWA, Brenton			✓	
TOTAL	4	—	1	—

Recommendation: ☑ Adopted ☐ Not Adopted

Chair's ~~or Designee's~~ Signature: Mike Gabbard

Distribution: Original — File with Committee Report; Yellow — Committee; Pink — Drafting Agency

*Only one measure per Record of Votes

Revised: 01/02/26

The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Transportation
TRS

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:
SB2146	JDC/TRS, WAM	2/3/26

☐ The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.

If so, then the previous decision was to: _____

The Recommendation is:

☐ Pass, unamended 2312 ☑ Pass, with amendments 2311 ☐ Hold 2310 ☐ Recommit 2313

Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
INOUYE, Lorraine R. (C)	✓			
ELEFANTE, Brandon J.C. (VC)	✓			
KANUHA, Dru Mamo	✓			
LEE, Chris				✓
DECORTE, Samantha	✓			
TOTAL	4	Ø	Ø	1

Recommendation: ☑ Adopted ☐ Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature:

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Revised: 01/02/26