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Tuesday, March 31, 2026
10:30 AM
State Capitol, 016

**HB1163, HD1, SD1
RELATING TO COMMERCIAL DRIVERS LICENSING**

Senate Committee on Judiciary

The Department of Transportation (DOT) is in strong support HB1163, HD1, SD1, relating to commercial driver's license qualification standards.

HB1163, HD1, SD1, amends Hawaii Revised Statutes §286-236 to align with current federal regulations by allowing the issuance of limited-term non-domiciled commercial learner's permits (CLPs) and commercial driver's licenses (CDLs) for individuals who are unable to provide proof of citizenship or lawful permanent residency. This measure enables Hawaii to issue non-domiciled CLPs and CDLs to qualifying applicants in accordance with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) standards governing commercial driver licensing.

The DOT supports this bill because alignment with federal regulations is essential to maintaining Hawaii's compliance with the FMCSA's requirements under 49 C.F.R. Part 383. Failure to conform state statutes to current federal standards could jeopardize Hawaii's ability to administer the CDL program and potentially risk the loss of federal highway funding. By updating Hawaii Revised Statutes §286-236 to reflect existing federal rules, this bill ensures that the State's commercial driver licensing framework remains consistent with national standards and does not place Hawaii at risk of federal sanctions or program decertification.

Furthermore, the issuance of non-domiciled CLPs and CDLs serves an important workforce and safety function. Commercial vehicle operators who hold valid non-domiciled licenses are still subject to the same rigorous testing, medical certification, and qualification standards as all other CDL holders. This bill does not lower the bar for commercial driver qualification; it simply ensures that Hawaii's statutory language accurately reflects what federal law already permits and requires. By doing so, the State can better serve individuals who are lawfully present but unable to provide the specific documentation currently required under state statute, without compromising road safety or the integrity of the CDL program.

The DOT respectfully urges the committee to pass HB1163, HD1, SD1, and encourages its timely enactment to bring Hawaii's commercial driver's license statutes into full conformity with federal regulations.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

HB-1163-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2026 6:26:40 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/31/2026 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Support

1163 HB RELATING TO COMMERCIAL DRIVERS LICENSING