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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | KA 'OIHANA ALAKAU
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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

Thursday, March 19, 2026
3:00 PM
State Capitol, 229

HB2097, HD1
RELATING TO ADMINISTRATIVE DRIVERS LICENSE REVOCATION

Senate Committees on Transportation & Labor and Technology

The Department of Transportation (DOT) supports H.B. 2097, H.D. 1.

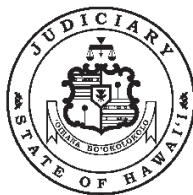
This bill amends Hawaii Revised Statutes to authorize administrative driver license revocation hearings to be conducted using interactive conference technology, including teleconferencing, videoconferencing, and Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) systems. The bill further clarifies procedures related to scheduling, recording, representation, and the electronic submission and exchange of evidence during these hearings, with an effective date of July 1, 3000.

The DOT strong support this modernization of the administrative driver license revocation hearing process. The authorization of interactive conference technology aligns with the increasing use of remote and digital platforms across government and legal proceedings, improving accessibility and efficiency for all parties involved, including licensees, their legal representatives, hearing officers, and administrative staff. By reducing the need for in-person appearances, this bill can lower barriers for individuals who face geographic, financial, or physical challenges in attending hearings, thereby ensuring a more equitable process.

The clarification that evidence may be submitted and exchanged electronically is a critical procedural update that reflects current technological capabilities and best practices. This provision will help streamline the evidentiary process, reduce delays, and improve the overall administration of driver license revocation proceedings. The DOT notes that similar remote hearing frameworks have been successfully implemented in other administrative proceedings and that standardizing this approach for driver license revocation hearings is a logical and beneficial step forward.

The DOT believes that this bill will enhance the efficiency and fairness of the administrative driver license revocation process while maintaining the integrity and due process protections afforded to all parties. We look forward to working with the Legislature to ensure the effective implementation of these provisions.

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



The Judiciary, State of Hawai'i
Ka 'Oihana Ho'okolokolo, Moku'āina 'o Hawai'i

Testimony to the Thirty-Third Legislature, 2026 Regular Session

Senate Committee on Transportation

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Labor and Technology

Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Chair
Senator Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 19, 2026 at 3:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

By

Karilee Harada
Chief Adjudicator
Administrative Driver's License Revocation Office

Bill No. and Title: House Bill No. 2097, H.D. 1, Relating to Administrative Driver's License Revocation.

Purpose: Authorizes administrative driver's license revocation hearings to be conducted using interactive conference technology, including teleconference, videoconference, and voice over internet protocol (VoIP) systems. Clarifies that evidence in hearings conducted via interactive conference technology may be submitted and exchanged electronically.

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary strongly supports House Bill No. 2097, which is part of the Judiciary's legislative package. This measure provides for Zoom hearings as an alternative to in-person and telephonic hearings. Since May 3, 2021 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, 98% of hearings at the Administrative Driver's License Revocation Office (ADLRO) have been conducted via Zoom. Since then, Zoom has become the hearing platform of choice for most Counsel and Respondents. All parties involved in ADLRO hearings, including respondents, defense counsel, police officers, and other witnesses, can attend hearings conveniently from any



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location, making it more likely that witnesses will appear for hearing. Given the advancement of technology since COVID, all parties can submit and exchange both paper and video exhibits electronically; and screen sharing allows all parties to view the exhibits simultaneously, including body worn camera videos.

Currently, our statute only provides for in-person and telephonic hearings so if Respondents want a Zoom hearing, they stipulate that they waive their right to an in-person hearing. Most in-person hearing requests are by neighbor island pro se respondents who do not have adequate internet access. Once Counsel or pro se respondents request an in-person hearing, the hearing is scheduled as in-person pursuant to statute. This bill, however, provides another option for those who prefer using Zoom.

Zoom hearings are economical, saving the Judiciary significant travel expense and time. Zoom hearings have also reduced the staffing needs at the ADLRO. The office no longer employs a receptionist because participants do not need to appear at the office and be monitored. Hearing Officers rotate the task of moderating and hosting the Zoom platform each day.

For these reasons, the Judiciary urges your support of House Bill No. 2097, H.D. 1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.