



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

Testimony to the Thirty-Third Legislature, 2026 Regular Session

House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair
Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 6, 2026 at 2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

By

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Bill No. and Title: House Bill No. 2097, 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 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.



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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. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.