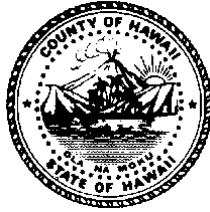


C. Kimo Alameda, Ph.D.
Mayor



William V. Brillhante, Jr.
Managing Director

Merrick Nishimoto
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i ~ Office of the Mayor

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2603 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • Phone (808) 961-8211 • Fax (808) 961-6553
KONA: 74-5044 Ane Keohokālole Hwy., Bldg C • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740
Phone (808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

Testimony of
C. Kimo Alameda, Ph.D.
Mayor, County of Hawai'i

Before the Senate Committee on
Transportation
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 3, 2026, at 3:00 P.M.
State Capitol Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

In consideration of
Senate Bill 2009
Relating to Motor Vehicles

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante and Members of the Committee on Transportation,

The County of Hawai'i respectfully opposes Senate Bill 2009, relating to motor vehicles. This measure would require used motor vehicle transfers between private individuals to obtain new license plate numbers, tags, or emblems at the time of transfer.

Currently, our Vehicle Registration and Licensing Division does not have the capacity to keep up with existing licensing demand. For example, commercial car rental companies have vehicles sitting idle, unable to meet public demand, simply waiting for new licenses. The additional requirements proposed in Senate Bill 2009 would result in even longer wait times, increased administrative burdens, and heightened frustration for both staff and the public.

This measure will not address the core liability concerns it seeks to solve and would instead worsen service delays and increase the operational strain on our Finance Department.

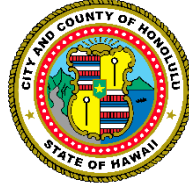
Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 2009.

**DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA LAWELawe KUPA
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

ADMINISTRATION

925 DILLINGHAM BOULEVARD, SUITE 257 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817
PHONE: (808) 768-3392 • FAX: (808) 768-3750 • WEBSITE: honolulu.gov

RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR
MEIA



KIMBERLY M. HASHIRO
DIRECTOR
PO'O

MEGAN JOHNSON
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
HOPE PO'O

February 2, 2026

The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
The Honorable Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation
State Capitol, Conference Room 229
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation:

SUBJECT: S.B. No. 2009 - Relating To Motor Vehicles
HEARING: Tuesday, February 3, 2026, 3:00 p.m.

The City and County of Honolulu, Department of Customer Services (CSD) **opposes** this bill and appreciates the opportunity to offer comments for your committee's consideration. Pursuant to Section 6-402 of the Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu, CSD Division of Motor Vehicle Registration (DMV) administers the motor vehicle registration program for the island of O'ahu. While CSD appreciates the intent of the proposed legislation, we have concerns regarding its application and its legal implications.

This measure would require private sellers to surrender existing license plates at the time of sale and require buyers to obtain new plates, tags, and emblems within seven days. This represents a significant departure from Hawaii's current registration framework and would substantially increase DMV transaction volume, in-person visits, and processing demands.

The proposal would increase costs for customers by requiring the purchase of new plates and registration materials for every private transfer. It would also increase costs to the State and County associated with plate production, inventory management, disposal, staffing, technology, and rulemaking. These impacts are not currently funded.

Additionally, the measure raises enforcement and public safety concerns during the interim period when vehicles may be operated without plates, and it places compliance burdens on private individuals without clear safeguards.

While CSD recognizes the goal of protecting sellers from post-sale liability, this issue may be more effectively addressed through improvements to existing transfer and notification processes rather than a universal new-plate requirement.

For the reasons above, CSD opposes this measure.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on S.B. No. 2009.

Sincerely,

for Kimberly M. Hashiro
Director

SB-2009

Submitted on: 1/29/2026 8:23:57 AM

Testimony for TRS on 2/3/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Megan Blazak	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

As a constituent of Senate District 4 in Hilo, I testify in opposition to this measure. Currently, vehicle titles have a Notice of Transfer Form that protects the Registered Owner of a vehicle from liability after the vehicle is sold to a buyer. This form is sufficient to address the issue of concern described in the bill.

This bill, if passed, would add unnecessary cost to the taxpayer by increasing work burden on Motor Vehicle & Licensing Divisions in all counties. This bill, if passed, would also cause lost productivity and unnecessary time burden for private individuals engaged in used motor vehicle transactions by adding an in-person appointment requirement for both Parties in a transaction. MVL is already overwhelmed by its existing work load for constituents, especially constituents living in urban Honolulu as well as rural communities on the neighbor islands that do not live close to an MVL office.

For these reasons, I oppose the measure. Thank you.