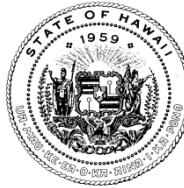


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

Deputy Directors
Nā Hope Luna Ho'okele
DREANALEE K. KALILI
TAMMY L. LEE
CURT T. OTAGURO
ROBIN K. SHISHIDO

**STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | KA 'OIHANA ALAKAU**
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

Tuesday, February 3, 2026
3:00 PM
State Capitol, 229

**SB2053
RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION**

Senate Committee on Transportation

The Department of Transportation (DOT) supports Senate Bill 2053, which authorizes supporting documents used to transfer ownership of a motor vehicle to an insurer after payment of damages from the result of a total loss insurance settlement to be signed electronically.

This bill aims to modernize and streamline the process of transferring ownership of salvaged vehicles following total loss insurance settlements. By allowing electronic signatures on supporting documents and removing notarization requirements, the bill aligns with current technological advancements and promotes efficiency in administrative procedures.

The DOT recognizes the importance of adapting to digital solutions that can enhance the speed and convenience of vehicle ownership transfers while maintaining the integrity of the process. Electronic signatures are increasingly accepted across various sectors, and their application in this context can significantly reduce paperwork and processing times.

We appreciate the provision that requires insurance companies to indemnify and hold harmless the Director of Finance for any claims resulting from the issuance of motor vehicle titles utilizing documents signed electronically without a notary. This safeguard helps protect the state's interests while facilitating a more efficient transfer process.

The DOT believes that this bill will benefit both insurers and vehicle owners by simplifying the transfer process and reducing potential delays. It also aligns with our ongoing efforts to modernize and improve our services to the public.

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

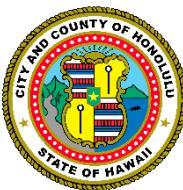
**DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA LAWELAWE KUPA
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR
MEIA

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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. 2053 - Relating To Transportation
HEARING: Tuesday, February 3, 2026, 3:00 p.m.

The City and County of Honolulu, Department of Customer Services (CSD) **supports** 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. CSD appreciates the intent of the proposed legislation, however, we have concerns regarding its application and its legal implications.

CSD supports efforts to modernize and streamline motor vehicle title transactions, particularly those involving salvaged vehicles following total loss insurance settlements. Allowing supporting documents to be signed electronically, without requiring notarization, has the potential to reduce processing delays, minimize paperwork burdens, and improve efficiency for vehicle owners, insurers, and county offices.

From an administrative standpoint, electronic signatures can help expedite title transfers and reduce in-person visits, while maintaining continuity of service. The bill's inclusion of an indemnification provision for the Director of Finance provides important

protection for the counties when relying on electronically signed documents submitted by insurance companies.

At the same time, implementation of these changes will require careful coordination. Clear standards for acceptable electronic signatures, document retention, and verification procedures will be necessary to ensure the integrity of title records and to prevent fraud. DMV systems, staff training, and internal workflows may also need to be updated to accommodate electronic documentation on a consistent basis.

With adequate lead time and interagency coordination, CSD believes these changes can be implemented effectively and will result in a more efficient and customer-friendly title transfer process. For these reasons, CSD supports S.B. No. 2053 and appreciates the Legislature's consideration of measures that modernize motor vehicle administration.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on S.B. No. 2053.

Sincerely,

for Kimberly M. Hashiro
Director

TESTIMONY OF MICHAEL ONOFRIETTI

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

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

Tuesday, February 3, 2026
3:00 p.m.

SB 2053

Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Committee on Transportation, my name is Michael Onofrietti, ACAS, MAAA, CPCU, Senior Vice President, Chief Actuary & Chief Risk Officer for Island Insurance, Board Chair and Chairman of the Auto Policy Committee for Hawaii Insurers Council. The Hawaii Insurers Council is a non-profit trade association of property and casualty insurance companies licensed to do business in Hawaii. Member companies underwrite approximately forty percent of all property and casualty insurance premiums in the state.

HIC **supports** this bill. This bill will streamline the process of motor vehicle transfer to an insurer after a total loss insurance settlement. This change will benefit all involved including the vehicle owner, the insurer, and counties by reducing the administrative process and time involved with title transfer. When title transfer is between the motor vehicle owner and their insurer, there are existing safeguards in place to ensure that the motor vehicle owner is aware that they are transferring title of a salvage vehicle to the insurer in exchange for remuneration and therefore, an e-signature is appropriate and notarization is unnecessary.

We ask that one technical change be made to Section 2, Page 6, line 1, to replace the word "insurer" with "insurance company" as that is the term used throughout Chapter 286-48.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**Testimony of Mark Binder from Copart, Inc.
In Support to Senate Bill 2053
Senate Committee on Transportation
February 3, 2026**

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

My name is Mark Binder, and I am testifying on behalf of Copart in **strong support** of SB 2053, with proposed technical amendments.

Copart is a national vehicle auction service company with operations across the United States, including a facility here in Hawai'i. Our Hawai'i location is in Kapolei, where we currently employ 12 people and provide services statewide. A significant portion of Copart's business involves working with insurance carriers to liquidate vehicles that have been declared total losses following a claim settlement.

Copart supports this bill because it modernizes the vehicle title transfer process by allowing the use of electronic signatures to transfer total loss vehicles from owners to insurance companies without a notary requirement. This change in the law is only for a very narrow transaction of vehicle owner to insurance company and will meaningfully reduce processing delays after a Hawai'i vehicle owner experiences a total loss and help vehicle owners get back on the road more quickly, with far less disruption to their daily lives. This is particularly important for households that rely on a single vehicle. Under the current system, vehicle owners must seek out a notary, then mail title documents to the insurance company, a process that can take several days or longer. With the proposed changes, the entire transaction could often be completed in a single phone call.

In addition to improving consumer experience, this bill represents increases efficiency by reducing the number of steps and physical handling involved in title transactions. Similar processes are already authorized in forty other states.

Federal and national transportation authorities have also encouraged modernization of title transfer systems. In 2019, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration updated its regulations to allow more efficient title transfer processes, and the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators has issued similar recommendations.

For these reasons, Copart respectfully requests your support to pass SB 2053, with the following technical amendments:

1. On page 6, line 1, replace the term "insurer" with "insurance company" to align with terminology used throughout the chapter:

- (g) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, supporting documents used to transfer ownership of a motor vehicle to an **[insurer] insurance company** after payment of damages from the result of a total loss insurance settlement pursuant to this section:
- 2. On page 6, line 7, insert the words “application for” before “duplicate title” to more precisely describe the relevant document:

For the purposes of this subsection, “supporting documents” includes but is not limited to power of attorney, **application for** duplicate title, and odometer disclosure forms.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.



To: The Honorable Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
The Honorable Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Transportation

From: Mark Sektnan, Vice President

Re: **SB 2053 – Relating to Transportation**
APCIA Position: Support

Date: Tuesday, February 3, 2026
3:00 p.m., Conference Room 229

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante and Members of the Committee:

The American Property Casualty Insurance Association is pleased to **support SB 2053** that proposes changes to the process for transferring ownership of salvaged motor vehicles following a total loss insurance settlement.

The American Property Casualty Insurance Association (APCIA) is the primary national trade association for home, auto, and business insurers. APCIA promotes and protects the viability of private competition for the benefit of consumers and insurers, with a legacy dating back 150 years. APCIA members represent all sizes, structures, and regions—protecting families, communities, and businesses in the United States and across the globe.

SB 2053 modernizes and streamlines the process for transferring ownership of a salvaged motor vehicle to an insurer following a total loss insurance settlement. As outlined in the bill, the current system requires notarized, manual signatures, a process that can create unnecessary delays, administrative burdens, and higher costs for vehicle owners, insurers, and county agencies.

SB 2053 provides a practical, technology-forward solution by authorizing supporting documents required for a salvage title transfer—such as affidavits and ownership documents—to be signed electronically. This modernization will not only expedite the transfer process but also reduce paperwork burdens and improve system reliability and customer experience. Importantly, the bill includes safeguards requiring insurance companies to indemnify and hold harmless the Director of Finance for any claims arising from issuing vehicle titles based on electronically signed, non-notarized documents.

Additionally, the bill's effective date of January 1, 2027, allows adequate time for agencies, insurers, and related partners to update their systems and workflows.

By embracing secure electronic signatures, Hawai'i aligns itself with modern business practices already adopted in many other administrative processes. SB 2053 reduces friction, promotes efficiency, and benefits both consumers and government entities without compromising the integrity of the title process.

For these reasons, APCIA asks the committee to **pass** this bill.