



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

Thursday, March 19, 2026
8:30 AM
State Capitol, 430

**SB2665, SD2
RELATING TO RENEWAL OF DRIVER'S LICENSES**

House Committee on Transportation

The Department of Transportation (DOT) support S.B. 2665, S.D. 2.

S.B. 2665, S.D. 2 amends Hawaii Revised Statutes §286-107 to require applicants for driver's license renewal who have received a moving violation or traffic citation within the previous five years to complete an educational course, including an online road safety video and written examination, prior to renewal. This measure would take effect on July 1, 2027.

The DOT support this legislation as it directly advances our ongoing commitment to improving road safety across Hawaii. Driver education and awareness are among the most effective tools available to reduce traffic violations, injuries, and fatalities on our roadways. By requiring drivers with recent moving violations to complete a targeted educational course at the point of license renewal, this bill ensures that those who have already demonstrated a lapse in safe driving behavior are re-engaged with current traffic safety standards before being permitted to continue operating a motor vehicle on Hawaii's public roads.

Our State data consistently demonstrates a troubling correlation between non-compliant or high-risk driver behavior and fatal traffic crashes. Educational requirements tied to the license renewal process represent a meaningful, cost-effective, and scalable intervention that can reach drivers already identified as elevated-risk.

The online format of the road safety video and written examination proposed in this bill is particularly noteworthy. As the DOT has previously supported modernizing the license renewal process through online and electronic means, this approach aligns well with efforts to make compliance accessible and efficient for Hawaii's residents while still maintaining a meaningful standard of accountability. Drivers who complete such coursework will be better equipped to understand updated traffic laws, recognize hazardous driving behaviors, and make safer decisions on the road.

The DOT encourages the Committee to consider ensuring that the educational course content be developed in coordination with the DOT and relevant traffic safety partners to maximize its effectiveness and relevance to current road conditions and safety priorities in Hawaii.

Additionally, the DOT recommends that clear administrative procedures be established to verify course completion prior to the issuance of renewed licenses, and that provisions be made to ensure accessibility for drivers with disabilities or language barriers.

Hawaii's roadways must be safe for every resident and visitor, and S.B. 2665, S.D. 2 is a practical, forward-thinking step toward that goal. The DOT strongly supports this measure and looks forward to working with the Legislature and our traffic safety partners to implement it effectively.

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

JON N. IKENAGA
PUBLIC DEFENDER

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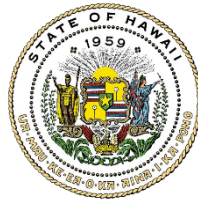
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March 18, 2026

SB 2665, SD2: RELATING TO RENEWAL OF DRIVER'S LICENSES

Chair Kila, Vice-Chair Miyake, and Members of the Committee on Transportation:

The Office of the Public Defender (OPD) **opposes** SB 2665 SD2 which requires applicants for driver's license renewal who have received a moving violation within the previous five years to complete an educational course, including a road safety video and written examination, as a condition of renewal.

The OPD acknowledges that the SD 2 version of this measure narrows its application from prior drafts by limiting the requirement to individuals with moving violations, rather than all traffic citations or infractions. While this is an improvement, the bill continues to create significant barriers to license renewal, increases the likelihood of unlicensed driving, and expands unnecessary involvement in the criminal legal system without clear evidence that it will improve roadway safety.

Even as narrowed, the bill imposes additional administrative and procedural burdens on individuals seeking to renew their licenses. Requiring completion of an online course and written examination introduces new hurdles related to time, technological access, and test-taking ability. For many individuals, particularly those with limited internet access, language barriers, or competing work and family obligations, these requirements increase the likelihood of delayed or unsuccessful renewal.

More burdensome renewal requirements do not reduce driving; they reduce compliance. The OPD regularly represents individuals charged with Driving Without a License whose underlying issue is not unsafe driving, but difficulty

navigating administrative requirements. This measure will predictably increase the number of individuals who miss renewal deadlines while attempting to comply with new requirements or who are unable to complete them in time, yet continue driving out of necessity for employment, medical care, and family responsibilities. The foreseeable result is increased citations and arrests for licensing offenses, rather than improved traffic safety.

Importantly, there is no clear evidence that requiring drivers to pass a written knowledge examination at license renewal improves roadway safety across the general driving population. Written tests primarily assess knowledge of traffic laws, but do not measure real-world driving behavior, decision-making, or risk tolerance which are factors more closely associated with collisions. The limited research showing safety benefits in licensing policies largely concerns different interventions, such as in-person renewal or vision screening for older drivers, rather than knowledge-based retesting tied to a prior violation. In the absence of stronger evidence, this approach risks imposing additional administrative burdens on drivers and increased financial and administrative burdens on the State without a demonstrated safety benefit.

Other jurisdictions that require knowledge testing at renewal generally do so only when there is a more significant or demonstrated pattern of unsafe driving, rather than based on a single prior moving violation. For example, Indiana requires a written knowledge examination only for drivers who have accumulated a threshold number of points on their driving record, reflecting repeated or more serious violations.¹ Similarly, California authorizes reexamination with a much shorter lookback period (two to three years), including knowledge testing, when there is evidence of driver risk, such as a history of collisions, negligent operator status, or other indicators of unsafe driving behavior, rather than automatically imposing testing based on a single citation.² These approaches are more narrowly tailored to target drivers who may pose a higher safety risk. In contrast, SB 2665 SD2 applies broadly to any individual with a moving violation within a five-year period, regardless of severity or frequency, and therefore risks imposing additional burdens on individuals who do not present an ongoing safety concern.

The bill also adopts a one-size-fits-all approach that does not account for the nature, severity, or recency of the underlying moving violation. Many moving violations encompass relatively minor conduct, such as low-level speeding or

¹ <https://www.in.gov/bmv/licenses-permits-ids/learners-permits-and-drivers-licenses-overview/drivers-license/renewing-a-drivers-license-learners-permit-or-identification-card/>

² <https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/news-and-media/news-releases/written-knowledge-test-requirement-eliminated-for-most-california-drivers-license-renewals/>

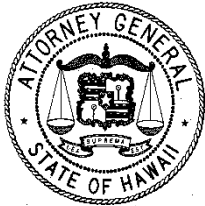
technical violations, and do not necessarily indicate that an individual poses an ongoing safety risk. Nevertheless, the bill treats all individuals with any qualifying moving violation the same, imposing identical requirements regardless of circumstance.

Additionally, the five-year lookback period is overly broad and may capture individuals whose driving behavior has long since improved. Imposing additional requirements based on conduct that may be years removed from the present is unlikely to meaningfully enhance roadway safety.

Finally, these added requirements will disproportionately impact low-income individuals and communities already overrepresented in the criminal legal system. Individuals with fewer resources are more likely to face challenges in accessing online systems, taking time off work, or navigating additional procedural steps. As a result, this measure risks exacerbating existing inequities while increasing the likelihood of criminal penalties for licensing-related offenses.

For these reasons, the Office of the Public Defender **opposes** SB 2665 SD2.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2026**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. NO. 2665, S.D. 2, RELATING TO RENEWAL OF DRIVER'S LICENSES.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

DATE: Thursday, March 19, 2026 **TIME:** 8:30 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 430

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
Michael J.S. Moriyama, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Kila and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General (Department) provides the following comments.

The purpose of this bill is to require applicants renewing their driver's licenses to complete an educational course that includes an online road safety video and a written road safety examination if an applicant received a citation for a violation relating to the operation of a motor vehicle during the five years prior to applying for renewal.

Section 1 of the bill, on page 1, line 8, through page 2, line 15, adds to section 286-107(e), Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), a new paragraph (2) that requires an applicant renewing a driver's license to complete an educational course that includes a road safety video, developed by the Department of Transportation, and a written road safety examination if the applicant received a "**moving violation**" during the five years prior to applying for renewal. A definition of "moving violation" is added on page 3, lines 4 through 9, which defines "moving violation" as "a violation of state traffic laws or county traffic ordinances committed by a driver while the motor vehicle is in motion, including moving violations under chapter 291C," and provides that a "moving violation" does not include "parking violations and violations that do not involve the operation of a vehicle in motion." The Department is concerned that statutory traffic violations are based on the operation of a motor vehicle and **not** whether the motor vehicle is moving. For consistent terminology, we recommend that the wording of the bill focus on the

unlawful operation of a motor vehicle, by amending section 286-107(e)(2), HRS, on page 1, lines 8 through 11, as follows (changes indicated in bold):

"(2) If the applicant has received a [moving violation] traffic citation for a violation of a state traffic law or county traffic ordinance involving the operation of a motor vehicle within the previous five years from the date that the applicant files for renewal, completes and educational course that includes:"

For consistency, we also recommend deleting the following proposed wording from section 286-107(e) on page 3, lines 4 through 9, as follows (stricken material to be deleted from the bill in bold):

"[For the purposes of this subsection, "moving violation" means a violation of state traffic laws or county traffic ordinances committed by a driver while the motor vehicle is in motion, including moving violation under chapter 291C. "Moving violation" does not include parking violations and violations that do not involve the operation of a motor vehicle in motion.]"

We respectfully ask the Committee to pass this bill with the recommended amendments.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.

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

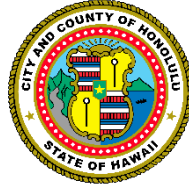
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DEPUTY DIRECTOR
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March 17, 2026

The Honorable Darius K. Kila, Chair
The Honorable Tyson K. Miyake, Vice Chair
and Members of the House Committee on Transportation
State Capitol, Conference Room 430
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Kila, Vice Chair Miyake, and Members of the House Committee on Transportation:

SUBJECT: S.B. No. 2665, S.D. 2 - Relating To Renewal of Driver's Licenses

HEARING: Thursday, March 19, 2026, 8:30 a.m.

The City and County of Honolulu, Department of Customer Services (CSD) offers **comments** on this bill 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 Vehicles (DMV) administers the motor vehicle driver licensing 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.

While CSD supports the intent of the proposed request and efforts to enhance road safety, there are anticipated operational impacts associated with instituting and administering a written road safety examination based on the state traffic laws and City and County of Honolulu traffic ordinances for your consideration:

- **Statewide Coordination of Data and Systems Integration:** Administration of an educational course that includes a road safety video and a written road safety examination will require enhanced database sharing and close coordination across all counties statewide, the State Department of Transportation, the State Judiciary, and the Honolulu Department of Information Technology to support

eligibility determinations, test tracking, and enforcement, and to ensure consistent standards, procedures, and public communications.

- **Testing Capacity:** Under current staffing and facility configurations, CSD DMV's capacity to administer additional testing during renewals of driver's licenses is limited. Any expansion of testing requirements would place significant strain on existing operations and would require additional funding and staffing to develop and maintain.

CSD DMV would seek to contract a third-party vendor to provide online testing services. Confirmation of successful completion of required testing would be processed by CSD DMV personnel.

To provide context for the potential number of tests that may be required, for existing driver license renewals, the following are the projected driver license renewal volumes based on expiration date:

	City and County of Honolulu	State of Hawai'i
CY2026	110,744	166,068
CY2027	128,732	194,265
CY2028	106,250	161,250

To provide context for the potential increase in the number of tests that may be required in the future due to new driver licenses being issued annually, in calendar year 2025 there were 32,434 new driver licenses issued in the City and County of Honolulu, and 44,445 new driver licenses issued statewide.

- **Customer Service Considerations:** Implementing an educational course that includes a road safety video and a written road safety examination for all applicants who received a traffic citation or infraction within the previous five years from the date an application for renewal of a driver's license is filed would introduce additional complexity in the appointment scheduling process and at customer service windows, resulting in increased processing times and the potential for customer confusion.
- **Implementation Timeline and Resources:** CSD DMV will require sufficient time to fully implement an online written road safety examination. Implementation will require procurement of a qualified third-party vendor to develop and administer the online examination platform, securing and appropriating necessary funding, information technology development and system integration, and establishing data-sharing processes with the State Judiciary and other state and county partners. In addition, administrative rules,

internal procedures, staff training, public communications, and testing protocols would need to be developed and finalized.

Each of these steps requires coordination with the State Department of Transportation, the State Judiciary, the City and County of Honolulu Department of Information Technology, and the counties of Hawai'i, Kaua'i, and Maui to ensure consistent statewide standards and enforcement.

Given the scope of procurement, funding approval, system development, and interagency coordination required, CSD respectfully recommends an effective date of **January 1, 2028**, to allow adequate time for responsible implementation.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on S.B. No. 2665, S.D. 2.

Sincerely,

for Kimberly M. Hashiro
Director

To: Representative Darius K. Kila, Chair
Representative Tyson K. Miyake, Vice Chair
Committee on Transportation

From: Veronica Moore, Individual Citizen

Date: March 18, 2026

RE: Senate Bill 2665 SD2
Measure Title: RELATING TO RENEWAL OF DRIVER'S LICENSES.
Report Title: DOT; Traffic Safety; Driver's License; Renewal; Motor Vehicle
Drivers

To All Concerned,

My name is Veronica Moore and I support Senate Bill 2665 SD2. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Veronica M. Moore