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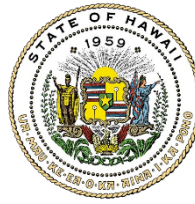
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February 3, 2026

SB 2665: RENEWAL OF DRIVER'S LICENSES

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

The Office of the Public Defender (OPD) **opposes SB 2665** which requires applicants for driver's license renewal to complete an educational course if they have received a traffic citation or infraction within the previous five years.

This bill will unintentionally create significant barriers to license renewal, increase the number of people driving without a valid license, and expand unnecessary criminal justice involvement, without clear evidence that it will improve roadway safety.

This bill conditions driver's license renewal on completion of an additional educational course and written examination for anyone who has received *any* traffic citation or infraction within the prior five years. This is an exceptionally broad category that will encompass otherwise safe drivers, including individuals cited for minor or non-moving infractions.

By adding new prerequisites to renewal, especially ones that require time, technological access, and test-taking, the bill shifts license renewal from an administrative function into a compliance hurdle. For individuals with limited internet access or language barriers, these added steps increase the likelihood of delay or failure to renew altogether.

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 or high-risk driving, but

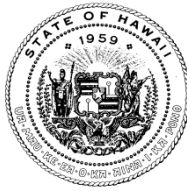
difficulty navigating administrative requirements. SB 2665 will predictably increase the number of people who miss renewal deadlines while attempting to complete new requirements, are unable to access or complete the required educational components in time, or continue driving out of necessity for work, medical appointments, or family obligations. The foreseeable result is increased citations and arrests for licensing offenses, rather than improved traffic safety.

There is no evidence in the bill demonstrating that requiring a written examination for license renewal, based solely on a past citation, will meaningfully improve roadway safety. What is clear is that additional administrative barriers disproportionately impact low-income individuals and communities already overrepresented in the criminal legal system.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
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KA LUNA HO'OKELE

Deputy Directors
Nā Hope Luna Ho'okele
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STATE OF HAWAII | 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

SB2665
RELATING TO RENEWAL OF DRIVER'S LICENSES

Senate Committee on Transportation

The Department of Transportation (DOT) supports S.B. No. 2665, which amends Hawaii Revised Statutes § 286-107(e) to require applicants for driver's license renewal who have received a traffic citation or infraction within the previous five years to complete an educational course. This measure aligns with the DOT's mission to enhance road safety and reduce traffic violations through targeted education and accountability.

The bill specifically mandates that the educational course include an online road safety video developed by the Department of Transportation and a written road safety examination that tests an applicant's ability to understand highway signs, knowledge of the rules of the road based on state traffic laws and county ordinances, and information relating to driver safety and collision reduction as determined by the department. These components are critical in ensuring that drivers remain informed about current traffic laws and safety practices, particularly those who may have recently violated them. By requiring this training, the bill reinforces that driving is a privilege and not a right, promotes responsible driving, and reduces repeat offenses.

Furthermore, the bill requires applicants to satisfy fitness standards, pay applicable fees, comply with other licensing requirements, and ensure no outstanding charges related to abandoned vehicles. These conditions further strengthen the integrity of the licensing process and support public safety by ensuring that only qualified individuals retain their driving privileges.

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

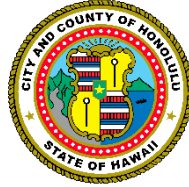
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KIMBERLY M. HASHIRO
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February 2, 2026

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, Hawai'i 96813

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

SUBJECT: S.B. No. 2665 - Relating To Traffic Safety
HEARING: Tuesday, February 3, 2026, 3:00 p.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 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.

While CSD DMV supports the intent of the proposed request and efforts to enhance road safety, we appreciate the opportunity to provide the following comments regarding 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.

An adequate amount of time will be required to initiate communications and coordinate efforts with the State Department of Transportation, the State Judiciary, the City and County of Honolulu's Department of Information Technology, and the counties of Hawai'i, Kaua'i, and Maui, regarding implementation of all necessary administrative procedures and updates; funding to support additional staffing; funding for information technology upgrades; and the establishment of data-sharing arrangements with the Judiciary.

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

Sincerely,

for Kimberly M. Hashiro
Director

SB-2665

Submitted on: 1/29/2026 3:25:48 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Pcola_Davis	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The intent of the bill is understood.

Concern: I go in to renew my license and at that point I find out I have a citation within the last 5 years. I am denied the renewal.

At what point do I watch the video and take the test? Do I make reservations or do it on the spot at satellite city hall?

As I said the intent is understood butt a process needs to be in place for this to work smoothly.

A well thought out process needs to be developed.

TESTIMONY OF
LARRY S VERAY

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

MOST STRONGLY SUPPORT SB2665

RELATED TO RENEWAL OF DRIVER'S LICENSES

February 1, 2026

Aloha, Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante and committee members. I am Larry Veray, Chairman for the Pearl City Neighborhood Board No. 21 and I am submitting this testimony strictly as an individual. **I most STRONGLY SUPPORT SB2665.**

Hawai'i has experienced a record number of traffic related deaths on our highways this past year and many of these deaths could have been prevented with refresher education training focusing on rules of the road while driving a motorized vehicle. Importantly this training could educate drivers on how to prevent the loss of life of pedestrians and bicyclists with educating the public to be alert and employ defensive driving techniques. A mandatory refresher course should be required for everyone renewing their drivers license and not just drivers that received traffic violation citations. This action would make everyone accountable to the rules of the road and I personally believe you would see the positive impact it would bring to public safety on our roads.

Although education of rules of the road is important people need to be reminded the consequences of speeding, running red lights, not stopping at crosswalks, not stopping for pedestrians walking anywhere and anytime and lastly, leaving the scene of an accident and not assisting those who were severely injured or killed in the accident.

Please approve SB2665, this bill is so important to move forward and educate drivers periodically. Please make this mandatory with an easy online course to complete prior to driver's license renewal. Now you are making people accountable with no excuse for knowing the rules of the road. Mahalo!

Larry S. Veray

SB-2665

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 7:17:30 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel C. Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is a good and reasonable one. Please pass it.

Mahalo,

Daniel C. Smith

Pearl City

LATE

SB-2665

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 9:32:50 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charmaine Doran	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee members - I'm testifying in support of SB2665. This bill aims to expand the discussion and options about what can be done to improve traffic and road safety. The requirement for drivers cited for offenses to complete an educational class and/or exam is a great way to address the issue and promote responsible driving habits. It's a proactive approach that is worthy of consideration and support. Mahalo for your time and consideration.