

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



GOV. MSG. NO. 1364

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

July 15, 2026

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate,
and Members of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, and Members of the
House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Aloha President Kouchi, Speaker Nakamura, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on July 15, 2026, the following bill was signed into law:

S.B. NO. 2851, S.D. 1, H.D. 2,
C.D. 1

RELATING TO DEAF INDIVIDUALS.
ACT 261

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Green M.D.".

Josh Green, M.D.
Governor, State of Hawai'i

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO DEAF INDIVIDUALS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the dangers
2 associated with a routine traffic stop can increase if a law
3 enforcement officer is not aware that the driver is deaf. A
4 deaf driver's failure to respond to verbal commands or an
5 officer's misinterpretation of a deaf individual's gestures can
6 lead to undesired outcomes.

7 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to prevent
8 miscommunication between deaf drivers and law enforcement
9 officers by providing law enforcement officers with a
10 notification that a driver is deaf when the officer conducts an
11 electronic check of the motor vehicle's registration.

12 SECTION 2. Chapter 286, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
13 amended by adding a new section to part III to be appropriately
14 designated and to read as follows:

15 "§286- Deaf owner; registration. (a) Upon application
16 by a motor vehicle owner who is deaf, the director of finance of
17 the county where the vehicle is to be operated shall add a



1 designation to the registration of the motor vehicle bearing the
2 international symbol for deafness or a numerical code
3 designating deafness.

4 (b) For the purposes of this section, the impairment of
5 deafness shall be certified by a qualified otolaryngologist or
6 an audiologist licensed under chapter 468E.

7 (c) The deafness designation shall appear when a law
8 enforcement officer accesses the motor vehicle's information and
9 shall be used to alert the law enforcement officer that the
10 owner of the motor vehicle is deaf.

11 (d) Except as provided by subsection (c), the director of
12 finance of the county where the vehicle is to be operated shall
13 restrict access to the motor vehicle owner's deafness
14 designation, as required by law.

15 (e) For purposes of this section, "deaf" means a person
16 whose average loss in the speech frequencies (500-2000 Hertz) in
17 the better ear is forty-one decibels, A.S.A., or worse."

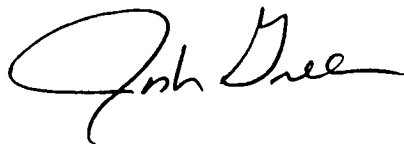
18 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

19 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2027.



S.B. NO. 2851
S.D. 1
H.D. 2
C.D. 1

APPROVED this 15th day of July, 2026

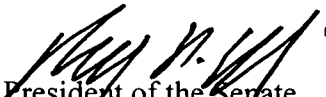
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Green". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Josh" and the last name "Green" clearly distinguishable.

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI'I

Date: May 1, 2026
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Final Reading in the Senate
of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2026.



President of the Senate



Clerk of the Senate

SB No. 2851, SD 1, HD 2, CD 1

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: May 6, 2026
Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the above-referenced Bill on this day passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026.



Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker
House of Representatives



Brian L. Takeshita
Chief Clerk
House of Representatives