

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 18 , 2026

RE: H.B. No. 1510  
H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2026  
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Transportation, to which was referred H.B. No. 1510 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO LICENSE PLATES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Condition the issuance of a certificate of inspection upon a vehicle not being equipped with any cover or shield installed over the license plate;
- (2) Amend the penalty for obstruction of a license plate;
- (3) Allow state or county parking enforcement officers to issue citations for vehicles with a cover or shield obstructing the license plate; and
- (4) Repeal the requirement that a cover or shield be intended to alter or interfere with the visibility, legibility, or identification of a license plate by law enforcement or traffic enforcement systems.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Transportation and one individual.



Your Committee finds that unobstructed license plates are essential for effective law enforcement, traffic safety, and the proper functioning of automated traffic enforcement systems. The use of covers or shields over license plates, regardless of transparency or intent, can impede the visibility and legibility of license plate information, undermining accountability and public safety. While existing law has proven difficult to enforce due to the requirement to demonstrate intent to obscure or interfere with identification, this measure strengthens enforcement mechanisms and promotes clearer vehicle identification statewide.

Your Committee has amended this measure by clarifying that any person authorized by a state or county law enforcement agency may issue citations for vehicles with a cover or shield obstructing the license plate.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Transportation that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1510, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1510, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Transportation,



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DARIUS KILA, Chair



**Record of Votes of the Committee on Transportation**

<b>Bill/Resolution No.:</b> <i>HB 1510</i>	<b>Committee Referral:</b> <i>TRN.JHA</i>	<b>Date:</b> <i>2/12/26</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
<b>The recommendation is to:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
TRN Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. <b>KILA, Darius K. (C)</b>	✓			
2. <b>MIYAKE, Tyson K. (VC)</b>	✓			
3. <b>COCHRAN, Elle</b>	✓			
4. <b>EVSLIN, Luke A.</b>	✓			
5. <b>GRANDINETTI, Tina Nakada</b>				✓
6. <b>KITAGAWA, Lisa</b>	✓			
7. <b>LA CHICA, Trish</b>	✓			
8. <b>MURAOKA, Christopher L.</b>	✓			
9. <b>PIERICK, Elijah</b>	✓			
<b>TOTAL (9)</b>	<i>8</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>
<b>The recommendation is:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. <small>committee acronym(s)</small>				
<b>Vice Chair's or designee's signature:</b> <i>Trish Miyake</i>				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original (White) – Committee      Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office      Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				