

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 19 , 2026

RE: H.B. No. 2086  
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. 2086 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HIGHWAY SAFETY,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to amend the offense of negligent injury in the first degree to include injuries negligently inflicted by intoxicated drivers.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Transportation; Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization; Kaua'i Police Department; Office of the Prosecuting Attorney for the County of Hawai'i; Department of the Prosecuting Attorney for the County of Maui; and Department of the Prosecuting Attorney for the City and County of Honolulu.

Your Committee finds that impaired driving remains a persistent and preventable threat to highway safety in Hawaii. While existing statutes allow felony prosecution when a vulnerable user is injured, substantial bodily injuries caused by intoxicated drivers to other victims may be prosecuted only as misdemeanors, creating a gap that limits accountability despite the well-known dangers of driving under the influence. By amending the offense of negligent injury in the first degree to expressly include substantial bodily injury negligently inflicted by drivers



operating a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or drugs, this measure provides stronger legal consequences that can reinforce deterrence and strengthen protections for all road users.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (2) Making a technical, nonsubstantive amendment for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

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. 2086, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2086, 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



