

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 2261

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 13 2026

RE: S.B. No. 2851
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Transportation and Health and Human Services, to which was referred S.B. No. 2851 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO DEAF INDIVIDUALS,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to authorize deaf motor vehicle owners to register their vehicle as being owned by a deaf individual so that a deafness designation appears when a law enforcement officer accesses the motor vehicle's information.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawaii Disability Rights Center and eight individuals.

Your Committees received comments on this measure from the Department of Customer Services of the City and County of Honolulu.

Your Committees find that deaf motor vehicle owners are often unable to hear speech clearly during a traffic stop as the sound of passing vehicle and environmental noise interfere with their ability to hear verbal commands from a law enforcement officer. A law enforcement officer who is unaware of the motor vehicle owner's hearing status may perceive their attempts to communicate through American Sign Language or gestures as a threat or lack of cooperation. Authorizing deaf motor vehicle owners to register their vehicle as being owned by a deaf individual will allow that



information to appear when a law enforcement officer conducts an electronic check of the motor vehicle's registration. This measure will prevent misunderstandings at traffic stops and enhance the safety of vulnerable road users.

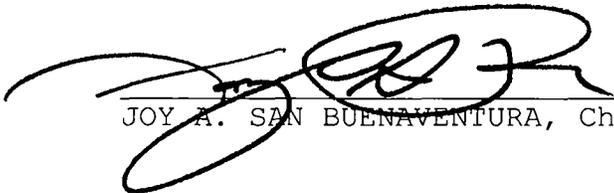
Your Committees note the concern raised by the Department of Customer Services of the City and County of Honolulu that adequate time is needed to initiate interagency coordination and implement the necessary administrative procedures and updates. Therefore, amendments to this measure are necessary to address this concern.

Your Committees have amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing its effective date from upon approval to January 1, 2027; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Transportation and Health and Human Services that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2851, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2851, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Judiciary.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Transportation
and Health and Human Services,

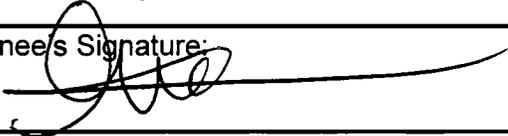

JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, Chair


LORRAINE R. INOUE, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Health and Human Services
HHS

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
SB 2851	TRS/HHS, JDC	2/1/26		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A. (C)	✓			
MCKELVEY, Angus L.K. (VC)	✓			
KANUHA, Dru Mamo	✓			
KEOHOKALOLE, Jarrett	✓			
FEVELLA, Kurt	✓			
TOTAL	5	0	0	0
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink File with Committee Report Committee Drafting Agency				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes