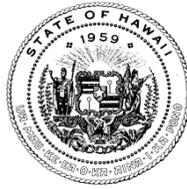


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

Deputy Directors
Nā Hope Luna Ho'okele
DREANALEE K. KALILI
TAMMY L. LEE
CURT T. OTAGURO
ROBIN K. SHISHIDO

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | KA 'OIHANA ALAKAU
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

March 17, 2026
3:00 PM
State Capitol, 229

HB1510, HD2
RELATING TO RENEWAL OF DRIVER'S LICENSES.

Senate on Transportation

The Department of Transportation (DOT) supports H.B. 1510, H.D. 2, relating to license plate obstruction and enforcement.

This bill amends Hawaii Revised Statutes sections 286-26 and 286-73 to condition the issuance of vehicle inspection certificates on compliance with license plate visibility requirements. It also prohibits covers or shields installed over license plates, increases penalties for violations, and allows parking enforcement officers to cite violators.

The DOT strongly supports this measure as it directly addresses issues that impact the visibility and readability of license plates, which are crucial for law enforcement, public safety, and automated enforcement systems. By prohibiting covers and shields over license plates, this bill ensures that license plate numbers remain clearly visible at all times, facilitating accurate identification of vehicles.

Conditioning vehicle inspection certificates on license plate visibility compliance is an effective way to ensure ongoing adherence to these requirements. This proactive approach will help maintain the integrity of our vehicle identification system and support various enforcement efforts.

The increased penalties for violations serve as a stronger deterrent against non-compliance, emphasizing the importance of proper license plate display. Additionally, empowering parking enforcement officers to cite violators expands the enforcement capacity, increasing the likelihood of detecting and addressing violations.

This bill aligns with the DOT's commitment to maintaining clear and readable license plates, which is essential for the effectiveness of automated enforcement programs that address dangerous behaviors such as speeding and running red lights. It also supports the use of license plate readers by law enforcement agencies, enhancing their ability to identify vehicles quickly and accurately.

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



The Judiciary, State of Hawai'i
Ka 'Oihana Ho'okolokolo, Moku'āina 'o Hawai'i

Testimony to the Thirty-Third Legislature, 2026 Regular Session

Senate Committee on Transportation
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

By

Michelle Acosta
Deputy Chief Court Administrator, Hawai'i State Judiciary

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Bill No. and Title: House Bill No. 1510, H.D. 2, Relating to License Plates.

Purpose: Conditions the issuance of a certificate of inspection upon a vehicle not being equipped with any cover or shield installed over the license plate. Amends the penalty for obstruction of a license plate. Allows state or county parking enforcement officers and persons authorized by a state or county law enforcement agency to issue citations for vehicles with a cover or shield obstructing the license plate. Repeals 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. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD2)

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary provides the following comments. The Judiciary respectfully requests that the effective date be set no earlier than January 1, 2027. This additional time is critical to ensure proper implementation by the courts which would include necessary updates to the Judiciary Information Management System (JIMS) and to the traffic payment system, and the adjustment of operational resources to account for a possible increase to the traffic court calendar.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1510, H.D. 2.

HB-1510-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 4:58:32 AM

Testimony for TRS on 3/17/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Support

1510 HB RELATING TO LICENSE PLATES.

The public shall assist law enforcers in enforcing the laws more efficiently.