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Thursday, February 12, 2026
8:30 AM
State Capitol, 430

**HB1510
RELATING TO LICENSE PLATES**

House Committee on Transportation

The Department of Transportation (DOT) supports H.B. No. 1510. This legislation addresses critical safety and compliance issues related to vehicle inspections and license plate visibility, which are essential components of public road safety and law enforcement efficiency.

The bill amends Hawaii Revised Statutes § 286-26(e) to condition the issuance of a certificate of inspection on a vehicle not being equipped with any cover or shield installed over the license plate, as prohibited under § 286-73. This ensures that license plates remain fully visible and identifiable, supporting both traffic enforcement and public safety objectives. The amendment aligns with existing requirements under § 291-25(a) regarding headlamp specifications and § 291-24/291-24.5 concerning mufflers and exhaust systems, reinforcing comprehensive vehicle safety standards.

Additionally, the bill strengthens enforcement mechanisms by amending § 286-73 to clarify that any use of a cover or shield installed over a license plate—regardless of transparency or intent—is prohibited. It also expands the authority of state or county parking enforcement officers to issue citations for such violations, enhancing compliance and accountability. The removal of the prior requirement that the cover or shield must be intended to alter or interfere with visibility or identification simplifies enforcement while maintaining the core objective of ensuring clear plate visibility.

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

HB-1510

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 7:26:41 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/12/2026 8:30:00 AM

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.