



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2026**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 2020, H.D. 1, RELATING TO RENEWAL OF DRIVER'S LICENSES.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

DATE: Tuesday, March 3, 2026 **TIME:** 2:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 325

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
Michael J.S. Moriyama, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Tarnas and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General (Department) provides the following comments.

The purpose of this bill is to require applicants renewing their driver's licenses to complete an educational course that includes an online road safety video and a written road safety examination.

Section 1 of the bill adds to subsection (e) of section 286-107, Hawaii Revised Statutes, a new paragraph (2), on page 1, line 8, through page 2, line 9, which requires an applicant renewing a driver's license to complete an educational course that includes a road safety video, developed by the Department of Transportation, and a written road safety examination. Subsection (e)(2)(B)(ii) on page 1, line 16, through page 2, line 4, requires the written road examination to test applicants on State laws and county ordinances, including any changes in State traffic laws.

The Department is concerned that the additional wording, "including any changes in state traffic laws", is unnecessary because subsection (e)(2)(B)(ii) on page 1, line 16, through page 2, line 3, already requires the applicant to take a written road safety examination that tests an applicant's knowledge of the traffic laws of the State and the traffic ordinances of the county where the applicant resides or intends to operate a motor vehicle. In addition, the bill does not require the applicant to be similarly tested for knowledge of any changes in county traffic ordinances and, as a result, creates an

ambiguity and implication that applicants do not need to be tested on current county traffic ordinances.

The Department recommends that subsection (e)(2)(B)(ii), page 1, line 16, through page 2, line 4, be amended to read as follows (stricken material is deleted from the bill):

- (ii) Knowledge of the rules of the road based on the traffic laws of the State and the traffic ordinances of the county where the applicant resides or intends to operate a motor vehicle~~[, including any changes in state traffic laws]~~; and

We respectfully ask the Committee to make the recommended amendment to this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.

JON N. IKENAGA
PUBLIC DEFENDER

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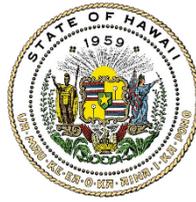
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March 2, 2026

HB 2020, HD1: RENEWAL OF DRIVER'S LICENSES

**Chair Tarnas, Vice-Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee on
Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs:**

The Office of the Public Defender (OPD) **opposes HB 2020, HD1** which requires applicants for driver's license renewal to complete an educational course and written road safety examination if they have received a traffic citation or infraction within the previous five years.

This bill will unintentionally create significant barriers to license renewal, increase the number of people driving without a valid license, and expand unnecessary criminal justice involvement, without clear evidence that it will improve roadway safety.

This bill conditions driver's license renewal on completion of an additional educational course and written examination for anyone who has received *any* traffic citation or infraction within the prior five years. This is an exceptionally broad category that will encompass otherwise safe drivers, including individuals cited for minor or non-moving infractions.

By adding new prerequisites to renewal, especially ones that require time, technological access, and test-taking, the bill shifts license renewal from an administrative function into a compliance hurdle. For individuals with limited internet access or language barriers, these added steps increase the likelihood of delay or failure to renew altogether.

More burdensome renewal requirements do not reduce driving; they reduce compliance. The OPD regularly represents individuals charged with Driving

Without a License whose underlying issue is not unsafe or high-risk driving, but difficulty navigating administrative requirements. HB 2020, HD1 will predictably increase the number of people who miss renewal deadlines while attempting to complete new requirements, are unable to access or complete the required educational components in time, or continue driving out of necessity for work, medical appointments, or family obligations. The foreseeable result is increased citations and arrests for licensing offenses, rather than improved traffic safety.

There is no evidence in the bill demonstrating that requiring a written examination for license renewal, based solely on a past citation, will meaningfully improve roadway safety. What is clear is that additional administrative barriers disproportionately impact low-income individuals and communities already overrepresented in the criminal legal system.

For these reasons, the Office of the Public Defender **opposes** HB 2020, HD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

**DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA LAWELAWE KUPA
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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March 2, 2026

The Honorable David A. Tarnas, Chair
The Honorable Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair
and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
State Capitol, Conference Room 325
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs:

SUBJECT: H.B. No. 2020, H.D. 1 - Relating To Renewal of Driver's Licenses

HEARING: Tuesday, March 3, 2026, 2:00 p.m.

The City and County of Honolulu, Department of Customer Services (CSD) offers **comments with concerns** on this bill for your committee's consideration. Pursuant to Section 6-402 of the Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu, CSD Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) administers the motor vehicle driver's licensing program for the island of O'ahu. While CSD appreciates the intent of the proposed legislation, we have concerns regarding its application and its legal implications.

Section 1 of the bill applies the educational course and written examination to individuals who received a moving violation or traffic infraction within five years "before renewal." Clarification is needed as to whether this refers to five years prior to the license expiration date or five years prior to the date the renewal application is submitted. This distinction materially affects system programming and eligibility determinations.

Further, the measure does not specify how county driver licensing agencies will be notified that an applicant falls within the five-year violation window. The DMV does not have automatic, real-time access to complete statewide moving violation and traffic infraction data. Implementation would require formal data-sharing with the State Judiciary and system integration to flag affected applicants at the time of renewal.

Section 2 of the bill also authorizes the Department of Transportation to “randomly require” applicants to complete an examination. Additional clarification is needed regarding how random selection would occur and how counties would be notified. Without a defined mechanism, DMV staff would have no reliable way to enforce the requirement.

The bill is also silent on how out-of-state violations would be treated. It is unclear whether moving violations received in other states within the five-year period would trigger the testing requirement, and if so, how those records would be obtained and verified. This presents additional administrative and data-sharing challenges.

CSD DMV supports the intent of the proposed bill and efforts to enhance road safety, and provides the following comments regarding anticipated operational impacts associated with instituting and administering a written road safety examination based on the state traffic laws and City and County of Honolulu traffic ordinances for your consideration:

- **Statewide Coordination of Data and Systems Integration:** Administration of an educational course that includes a road safety video and a written road safety examination will require enhanced database sharing and close coordination across all counties statewide, the State Department of Transportation, the State Judiciary, and the Honolulu Department of Information Technology to support eligibility determinations, test tracking, and enforcement, and to ensure consistent standards, procedures, and public communications.
- **Testing Capacity:** Under current staffing and facility configurations, CSD DMV’s capacity to administer additional testing during renewals of driver’s licenses is extremely limited. Any expansion of testing requirements would place significant strain on existing operations and would require additional funding and staffing to develop and maintain.

Functionally, CSD DMV would seek to contract a third-party vendor to provide online testing services. Confirmation of successful completion of required testing would be processed by CSD DMV personnel.

To provide context for the potential number of tests that may be required for existing driver license renewals, the following figures represent projected driver license renewal volumes based on expiration date:

	City and County of Honolulu	State of Hawai‘i
CY2026	110,744	166,068
CY2027	128,732	194,265
CY2028	106,250	161,250

To provide context for the potential increase in the number of tests that may be required in the future due to new driver licenses being issued annually, in calendar year 2025 there were 32,434 new driver licenses issued in the City and County of Honolulu, and 44,445 new driver licenses issued statewide.

- **Customer Service Considerations:** Implementing an educational course that includes a road safety video and a written road safety examination for all applicants who received a traffic citation or infraction within the previous five years from the date an application for renewal of a driver's license is filed would introduce additional challenges and complexities in the appointment scheduling process and at customer service windows, resulting in increased processing times and the potential for customer confusion.

An adequate amount of time will be required to initiate communications and coordinate efforts with the State Department of Transportation, the State Judiciary, the City and County of Honolulu's Department of Information Technology, and the counties of Hawai'i, Kaua'i, and Maui, regarding implementation of all necessary administrative procedures and updates; funding to support additional staffing; funding for information technology upgrades; and the establishment of data-sharing arrangements with the Judiciary. Significant funding would be required for system development, database integration, vendor procurement, staff training, and public education. Based on preliminary assessment, implementation would require approximately two (2) years from the date funding is secured.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on H.B. No. 2020, H.D. 1.

Sincerely,

for Kimberly M. Hashiro
Director

HB-2020-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2026 12:41:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support** of H.B. 2020, H.D. 1.

As a long-time licensed driver in Hawai‘i, I deeply appreciate the intent of this measure to strengthen road safety through education. Driving is a privilege that carries with it a kuleana not only for our own well-being, but for the safety of our passengers, pedestrians, cyclists, and all others who share the roadway.

This bill takes a **balanced and reasonable approach** by requiring the educational course only for those drivers who have received a moving violation or traffic infraction within the previous five years. In doing so, it:

- Targets the requirement where it is most needed
- Encourages improved driving behavior
- Provides an opportunity for drivers to refresh their knowledge of current traffic laws and safe practices

Traffic laws, signage, and roadway conditions change over time. Even experienced drivers can benefit from a brief review. The inclusion of:

- A road safety video, and
- A written examination

ensures that drivers remain informed and attentive to the rules that protect all of us.

I also support the provision allowing the Department of Transportation to study and report on the program before broader implementation. This reflects a thoughtful, data-driven approach to policy making.

From a personal standpoint, knowing that drivers who have demonstrated unsafe behavior will be required to complete an educational component gives me greater confidence when I am on the road. This measure is not punitive—it is preventative and educational, and it promotes a culture of shared responsibility for public safety.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to **pass H.B. 2020, H.D. 1.**

Mahalo for your commitment to the safety of Hawai'i's roadways.

HB-2020-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2026 9:24:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Support

2020 HB RELATING TO RENEWAL OF DRIVER'S LICENSES.

HB-2020-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2026 12:11:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael A. Cobb Jr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose the retesting of drivers. This will not make the roads safer, enforcing current laws will. This will create more government spending, such a waste.

HB-2020-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2026 2:39:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Jaworowski	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not oppose the proposed testing for certain drivers, but this bill casts its net too widely. It would apply to everyone who's had so much as a traffic infraction over the five years prior to license renewal, and traffic infractions include such minor events as safety belt violations, muffler violations, motor vehicle alarms systems, and parking in spaces reserved for an EV, none of which affects driving ability. The net proposed by this bill is too broad. In my opinion, the length of time is too extensive. To require someone who was cited five years ago for a speeding ticket, for example, to have to go through these burdensome regulations is overkill. Requiring this for someone who has committed these infractions or violations in the past year or two seems more reasonable.

I also strongly suggest that you pay attention to the testimony of the Honolulu Department of Motor Vehicles, which indicated that under one version of the bill, they would be required to provide written tests for over 100,000 more drivers than they are currently handling – and they are pretty much at their maximum at just over 30,000. This would be over three times more. This committee should also solicit testimony from the other county motor vehicle departments to see if they are able to handle such a huge increase in volume if this bill were to pass. As another testifier pointed out for a previous version, so many of our residents rely on drivers licenses to get to work, or school. Drivers license renewals need to be able to be completed within a reasonable time, before the license expires. Under this proposed bill, how much longer would it take for someone who falls in this category to get their license renewed? Without this data, I'm not sure how the bill can move forward with a reasonable hope of being implementable.

Last, the language in the previous committee report about permitting there to be a random lottery of otherwise good drivers who would be also forced to do this burdensome video and written test seems unfair. Why? In the absence of any evidence that any of those drivers without infractions are bad drivers, why force any of them to through this additional process? Where is the data showing this would be of any benefit? I do realize that there has been a marked increase in traffic accidents and fatalities in the city and county of Honolulu in recent years, but I think the legislature should be demonstrating more connection between proposed burdens Of imposing additional testing on a random lottery of good drivers and realistically obtainable benefits.