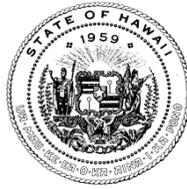


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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | KA 'OIHANA ALAKAU
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March 17, 2026
3:00 PM
State Capitol, 229

**HB2020, HD2
RELATING TO RENEWAL OF DRIVER'S LICENSES.**

Senate on Transportation

The Department of Transportation (DOT) supports H.B. 2020, H.D. 2, relating to renewal of driver's licenses.

This bill amends Hawaii Revised Statutes § 286-107 to require driver's license renewal applicants, who received a moving violation or traffic infraction in a period of five years before renewal, to complete an educational course that includes an online road safety video developed by the Department of Transportation and a written road safety examination. The examination tests an applicant's ability to understand highway signs, knowledge of traffic laws and ordinances, and other essential road safety knowledge deemed necessary by the department to determine the applicant's fitness to continue operating a motor vehicle.

The DOT supports this initiative because it aligns with our mission to promote safe driving practices and reduce traffic-related incidents through education and awareness. By requiring renewal applicants to engage with a standardized educational course developed by the DOT, we can ensure consistent delivery of critical safety information across all counties in Hawaii. This approach also allows for timely updates to reflect evolving traffic laws and safety protocols.

Additionally, subsection (a) of Section 2 authorizes the Department of Transportation to develop and implement a system that randomly requires applicants for driver's license renewal to complete a written examination on traffic laws and road safety. This provision enhances accountability and reinforces the importance of ongoing driver education. The DOT is prepared to work closely with the Legislature to develop such a system in accordance with the report requirement outlined in subsection (b), which mandates submission of findings and recommendations no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the 2027 regular session.

We commend the Legislature for taking proactive steps toward improving road safety through enhanced licensing standards. The inclusion of both an online video component

and a written exam ensures that drivers are not only exposed to updated safety information but also assessed on their comprehension and retention of key concepts.

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

JON N. IKENAGA
PUBLIC DEFENDER

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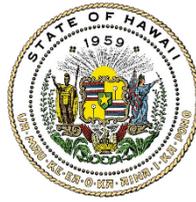
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March 16, 2026

HB 2020, HD2: RELATING TO RENEWAL OF DRIVER'S LICENSES:

Chair Inouye, Vice-Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee on Transportation:

The Office of the Public Defender (OPD) opposes HB 2020 HD2, which requires applicants for driver's license renewal to complete an educational course and written road safety examination if they have received a moving violation or traffic infraction within the previous five years.

While the measure is intended to promote roadway safety, it 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 traffic safety outcomes.

This bill conditions driver's license renewal on completion of an additional educational course and written examination for anyone who has received a moving violation or traffic infraction within the prior five years. This is an exceptionally broad category that will encompass many otherwise responsible drivers, including individuals cited for minor infractions. Conditioning renewal on additional testing requirements shifts what has traditionally been an administrative process into a compliance hurdle.

For many individuals, particularly those with limited internet access, limited English proficiency, or inflexible work schedules, additional testing requirements create practical obstacles to timely license renewal. The added steps increase the likelihood that individuals will delay or fail to renew their license altogether, even when they remain otherwise eligible to drive.

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 HD2 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 roadway safety.

This measure also authorizes the Department of Transportation to develop and implement a system that may randomly require applicants renewing their driver's license to complete a written examination on traffic laws and road safety. This additional discretionary testing authority raises similar concerns about expanding administrative barriers to license renewal without evidence that such testing will meaningfully improve roadway safety.

The OPD recognizes the Legislature's ongoing concern regarding roadway safety and the tragic consequences of serious traffic collisions. However, requiring individuals to complete a written examination as a condition of license renewal based solely on a past traffic citation does not meaningfully address the behaviors most closely associated with serious crashes, such as impaired driving, excessive speeding, and reckless driving. Rather than targeting high-risk conduct, the measure imposes additional administrative hurdles on a broad group of drivers, including those whose prior infractions were minor. Effective traffic safety policy should focus on addressing dangerous driving behaviors directly, rather than creating additional barriers to lawful license renewal. There is no evidence in the bill demonstrating that requiring a written examination for license renewal, based solely on a past traffic violation, will meaningfully improve roadway safety.

Additional barriers to driver's license renewal also have disproportionate impacts on residents of rural and neighbor island communities. In many parts of Hawai'i, reliable public transportation options are limited, and individuals must rely on driving to reach employment, medical appointments, and essential services. When administrative hurdles make license renewal more difficult or time-consuming, individuals living in these communities are particularly vulnerable to losing lawful driving status despite continued need to travel for daily necessities. Policies that inadvertently increase the number of unlicensed drivers can create broader economic and community impacts without meaningfully improving roadway safety. For these reasons, the Office of the Public Defender **opposes** HB 2020 HD2.

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

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March 16, 2026

The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
The Honorable Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation
State Capitol, Conference Room 229
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation:

SUBJECT: H.B. No. 2020, H.D. 2 - Relating To Renewal of Driver's Licenses

HEARING: Tuesday, March 17, 2026, 3:00 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 "preceding 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 1 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. 2.

Sincerely,

*/s/*Kimberly M. Hashiro
Director

HB-2020-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 5:08:58 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

2020 HB RELATING TO RENEWAL OF DRIVER'S LICENSES.

It is the PUBLICS RESPONSIBILITY to keep everyone safe on the roads, sidewalks, crosswalks, parking lots, etc.