

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | KA 'OIHANA ALAKAU  
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Thursday, February 19, 2026  
9:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, 430

**HB2020**  
**RELATING TO RENEWAL OF DRIVER'S LICENSES**

House Committee on Transportation

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The Department of Transportation (DOT) supports H.B. 2020, relating to driver's license renewal requirements.

This bill amends Hawaii Revised Statutes § 286-107 to require driver's license renewal applicants to complete an educational course that includes an online road safety video developed by the Department of Transportation and a written examination testing knowledge of highway signs, traffic laws, and rules of the road.

The DOT believes that this measure will enhance road safety by ensuring that drivers renewing their licenses are up-to-date with current traffic laws and safety practices. The educational course and examination will serve as a refresher for experienced drivers and help address any changes in traffic regulations that may have occurred since their last renewal.

The implementation of an online road safety video developed by the DOT will allow us to provide standardized, comprehensive, and current information to all renewing drivers. This approach ensures consistency in the educational content delivered across the state and allows for timely updates as needed.

The addition of a written examination will help verify that drivers have understood and retained the information presented in the educational course. This assessment will contribute to maintaining a high standard of road safety knowledge among licensed drivers in Hawaii.

While we support this bill, we recommend that the implementation timeline and specific requirements for the educational course and examination be developed in consultation with the DOT to ensure feasibility and effectiveness.

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



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

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

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

**BEFORE THE:**

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

**DATE:** Thursday, February 19, 2026      **TIME:** 9:00 a.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 430

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

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Chair Kila 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 section 286-107(e), Hawaii Revised Statutes, one new paragraph designated as paragraph (2), on page 1, line 8, through page 2, line 9, that 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" on page 2, lines 3-4, is unnecessary because paragraph (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.

The Department recommends that subsection (e)(2)(B)(ii) on page 1, line 16, through page 2, line 4, be amended to read as follows (stricken material is to be 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 pass this bill with the recommended amendments.

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

JON N. IKENAGA  
PUBLIC DEFENDER

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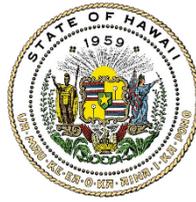
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**February 17, 2026**

**HB 2020: RELATING TO RENEWAL OF DRIVER'S LICENSES:**

**Chair Kila, Vice-Chair Miyake, and Members of the Committee on Transportation:**

The Office of the Public Defender (OPD) **opposes** HB 2020 which would require **every applicant renewing a driver's license** to complete an educational course consisting of an online road safety video developed by the Department of Transportation and a written road safety examination.

**More Burdensome Renewal Requirements Reduce Compliance — Not Driving**

From our experience representing indigent clients across the State, we have seen repeatedly that when renewal requirements become more complex, the predictable result is not less driving, it is reduced compliance.

Driving in Hawai'i is not optional for most working people. Many residents rely on their vehicles to get to work, attend medical appointments, care for family members, and meet other essential needs. When license renewal is made more cumbersome, individuals do not stop driving. Instead, they are more likely to continue driving out of necessity without a valid license.

The foreseeable result of this measure is therefore not safer roads, but an increase in unlicensed driving cases which further entangles individuals in the criminal legal system over administrative noncompliance.

**Universal Application Is Disproportionate and Overbroad**

Unlike legislation targeted at drivers demonstrating unsafe driving behavior, HB 2020 applies equally to:

- Individuals with spotless driving records;
- Seniors renewing without incident;
- Working parents with no infractions;
- Individuals who rely on their licenses solely for commuting to work.

A one-size-fits-all mandate treats minor infractions, serious violations, and completely clean records the same. Existing traffic laws already provide mechanisms for addressing unsafe driving behavior, including citations, suspensions, revocations, and court-ordered education programs where appropriate. Imposing a universal examination requirement upon every renewal applicant expands administrative obligations without evidence that such a broad approach will meaningfully reduce collisions.

### **Disproportionate Impact on Low-Income Communities**

Many of the individuals we represent face barriers including:

- Limited or unreliable internet access;
- Limited computer literacy;
- Language barriers;
- Rigid work schedules without flexibility to attend additional appointments;
- Lack of transportation while attempting to renew.

Requiring completion of an online video and written examination may appear minimal in theory, but in practice it can function as a significant barrier for those already navigating economic instability. When compliance decreases, system involvement increases. The individuals most likely to bear that burden are those already overrepresented in the criminal legal system.

### **Increased System Strain Without Evidence of Safety Gains**

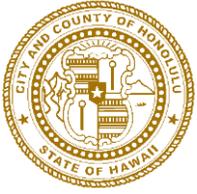
The expansion of renewal requirements for every driver will likely increase:

- Administrative workload for examiners;
- Processing delays;
- Citations for driving without a valid license.

This measure may unintentionally divert public safety resources toward enforcing administrative compliance rather than focusing on high-risk driving behavior that demonstrably impacts roadway safety.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.



**HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL**  
**KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU**  
530 S. KING ST. STE. 202, HONOLULU, HI 96813

**RADIANT CORDERO**  
HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL  
DISTRICT VII  
(WAIMALU KAI TO KAPĀLAMA KAI)  
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-5007  
FAX: (808) 768-1208  
EMAIL: rcordero@honolulu.gov

February 19, 2026, 9:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 430/Videoconference  
Hawai'i State Capitol

**TO:** CHAIR DARIUS K. KILA, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
VICE CHAIR TYSON K. MIYAKE, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

**FROM:** HONOLULU CITY COUNCILMEMBER RADIANT CORDERO  
HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL, DISTRICT VII  
CHAIR, COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE, TRANSPORTATION & TECHNOLOGY

**SUBJECT:** **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF House Bill 2020 Relating to Renewal of Driver's Licenses**

Aloha Honorable Chair Kila, Vice Chair Miyake, and Members of the Committee on Transportation:

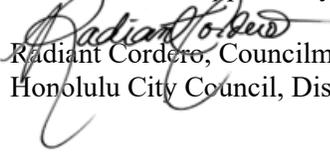
I respectfully submit this testimony in **support** of House Bill 2020 and offer additional comments.

This bill requires applicants to complete an educational course, including an online road safety video to be developed by the Department of Transportation (DOT), and passing a written examination to assess their knowledge of essential traffic laws. By implementing this renewal update, we not only enhance drivers' understanding of the rules of the road but also helps promote greater awareness of how to share the road safely with pedestrians, cyclists, and other users. The online video component would provide applicants with flexible access to the material, while the written test ensures adequate knowledge before renewing their license.

As Chair of the Honolulu City Council's Committee on Infrastructure, Transportation & Technology and a transit advocate, I introduced and ushered unanimous passage of Resolutions 26-1 which urges the State of Hawai'i to consider requiring a rule of the road knowledge test for driver's license renewals. I am pleased that this statewide proposal reflects the same commitment to improving road safety.

As the counties carry out State Driver's License issuances and renewals, I urge the Committee to ensure that the state allocates adequate resources to support updates and enhancements to the driver's license process. Given the current resource constraints at our city level, any additional responsibilities without proper funding could further strain our capacity and delay implementation.

Mahale for this opportunity to testify in **support** of House Bill 2020.

  
Radiant Cordero, Councilmember  
Honolulu City Council, District VII

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

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RICK BLANGIARDI  
MAYOR  
MEIA

KIMBERLY M. HASHIRO  
DIRECTOR  
PO'O

MEGAN JOHNSON  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
HOPE PO'O



February 18, 2026

The Honorable Darius K. Kila, Chair  
The Honorable Tyson K. Miyake, Vice Chair  
and Members of the House Committee on Transportation  
State Capitol, Conference Room 430  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Kila, Vice Chair Miyake, and Members of the House Committee on Transportation:

SUBJECT: H.B. No. 2020 - Relating To Renewal of Driver's Licenses  
HEARING: Thursday, February 19, 2026, 9:00 a.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.

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
<b>CY2026</b>	110,744	166,068
<b>CY2027</b>	128,732	194,265
<b>CY2028</b>	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.

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

Sincerely,

*for* Kimberly M. Hashiro  
Director

**HB-2020**

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 9:28:47 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
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.

To: Representative Darius K. Kila, Chair  
Representative Tyson K. Miyake, Vice Chair  
Committee on Transportation

From: Veronica Moore, Individual Citizen

Date: February 18, 2026

RE: House Bill 2020  
Measure Title: RELATING TO RENEWAL OF DRIVER'S LICENSES.  
Report Title: DOT; Traffic Safety; Driver's License; Renewal; Motor Vehicle  
Drivers

To All Concerned,

My name is Veronica Moore and I support House Bill 2020. Hopefully, the aftermath of implementing this bill will lead to a reduction in traffic fatalities. Thank you for introducing this bill.

Sincerely,

Veronica M. Moore