



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

**Testimony to the Thirty-Third Legislature, 2026 Regular Session**

**House Committee on Finance**  
Representative Chris Todd, Chair  
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

Monday, March 2, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

By

Michelle D. Acosta  
Deputy Chief Court Administrator  
District Court of the First Circuit

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**Bill No. and Title:** House Bill No. 2031, H.D. 2, Relating to Transportation

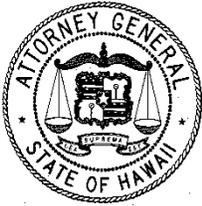
**Purpose:** Establishes the Administrative Hearings Division within the Department of Transportation and transfers certain administrative hearing powers to the Division, including matters related to transportation network company permit appeals, automated red light camera and speed enforcement traffic citations, and commercial driver's license appeals. Allows authorized employees of the Department of Law Enforcement to review images produced by the automated red light camera and speed enforcement systems. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD2)

**Judiciary's Position:**

The Judiciary appreciates the amendments made by the House Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs Committee regarding the appeal process for the red light camera and speed enforcement traffic citations.

Should this measure be passed, the Judiciary would require time for coordination and implementation, but given the Department of Transportation's broader implementation requirements, we respectfully defer to the Department for an appropriate timeline.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on House Bill No. 2031, H.D. 2.



**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. 2031, H.D. 2, RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION.

**BEFORE THE:**

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**DATE:** Monday, March 2, 2026                      **TIME:** 10:00 a.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 308

**TESTIFIER(S):** Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or  
Marjorie A. Lau, Deputy Attorney General

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Chair Todd and Members of the Committee:

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

This bill establishes within the Department of Transportation (DOT) an administrative hearings division (Division) to conduct administrative hearings pursuant to chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). This bill includes moving the process for handling violations under the automated speed enforcement systems program and the photo red light imaging detector systems program to the Division from the current process under the Statewide Traffic Code, chapter 291C, HRS. Amendments are made to existing statutes currently addressing processing such violations. Additionally, new statutory sections and amendments to existing statutes are included to provide for administrative hearings by the Division for certain matters.

The Department believes that the sections specifically providing for chapter 91 administrative hearings under chapter 291J, HRS, and chapter 291L, HRS, were inadvertently deleted when adding in the alternate appeal process from such chapter 91 administrative hearings into this bill.

The Department therefore recommends that section 3 of the bill, starting on page 6, line 3, include an additional new section to read as follows:

**"§291J- Administrative hearings. (a) Any person issued a citation pursuant to this chapter may contest the citation by submitting a request for an administrative hearing conducted pursuant to chapter 91 to the administrative hearings division of the department within thirty days after the date the citation was received.**

(b) A decision of the administrative hearings division under this section shall constitute a final decision and order under chapter 91, subject to appeal as specifically provided in section 291J- (in lieu of judicial review pursuant to section 91-14)."

Regarding chapter 291L, the Department recommends that section 4 of the bill, starting on page 7, line 14, include an additional new section to read as follows:

**"§291L- Administrative hearings.** (a) Any person issued a citation pursuant to this chapter may contest the citation by submitting a request for an administrative hearing conducted pursuant to chapter 91 to the administrative hearings division of the department within thirty days after the date the citation was received.

(b) A decision of the administrative hearings division under this section shall constitute a final decision and order under chapter 91, subject to appeal as specifically provided in section 291L- (in lieu of judicial review pursuant to section 91-14)."

Additionally, the Department notes that the parameters for fines for violations under chapter 291J are already set forth in the provisions of chapter 291C, as referenced in section 291J-10. To avoid any conflict with such statutory parameters, but to also allow the DOT to set specific fines, the Department recommends adding a new section to the bill to amend section 291J-10(a) to add a second sentence to read as follows:

**"[~~§291J-10~~] Penalty.** (a) The penalties for all consequences of a violation for disregarding a steady red signal initiated by the use of a photo red light imaging detector system shall be as provided in section 291C-161. Additionally, specific fines for all consequences of a violation for disregarding a steady red signal initiated by the use of a photo red light imaging detector system may be set, in a manner not inconsistent with any applicable statutory provisions addressing such fines, by the department as the director deems necessary for the purpose of carrying out this chapter."

Regarding chapter 291L violations, the Department notes that the parameters for fines for violations under chapter 291L are already set forth in the provisions of chapter 291C, as referenced in the bill's proposed new section to chapter 291L. To avoid any conflict with such statutory parameters, but to also allow the DOT to set specific fines, the Department recommends adding a second sentence to subsection (a) of the proposed new section to chapter 291L, on page 9, lines 3-6, to read as follows:

**"§291L- Penalty.** (a) The penalties for all consequences of a violation initiated by the automated speed enforcement systems program shall be

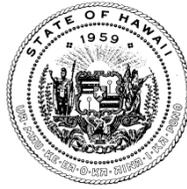
set as provided in sections 291C-108 and 291C-161. Additionally, specific fines for all consequences of a violation initiated by the automated speed enforcement systems program may be set, in a manner not inconsistent with any applicable statutory provisions addressing such fines, by the department as the director deems necessary for the purpose of carrying out this chapter."

With this addition to the proposed new section to chapter 291L, section 18 of the bill, on page 24, lines 10-19, which amends section 291L-10(a), is not necessary and should be deleted.

In light of the recommendations to add a new section to the bill and to delete the existing section 18, all affected section numbers of the bill should be adjusted accordingly.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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



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Monday, March 2, 2026  
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**HB2031, HD2  
RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION**

House Committee on Finance

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The Department of Transportation (DOT) supports H.B. 2031, H.D.2, which establishes the Administrative Hearings Division within the Department and transitions certain transportation-related enforcement and appeals matters to a centralized administrative framework. H.D.2 strengthens and clarifies the bill by formally authorizing the Division to conduct Chapter 91 administrative hearings for matters under DOT jurisdiction, including transportation network company permit appeals, commercial driver's license suspensions, revocations, and cancellations, and automated red light and speed enforcement citations.

The measure converts automated red light and speed enforcement violations from civil traffic infractions processed through the Judiciary to administrative violations handled by DOT, creating a more efficient and consistent adjudication process while preserving judicial review under Chapter 91. H.D.2 further authorizes a "reviewing entity," including county police departments or authorized employees of the Department of Law Enforcement, to review and verify automated enforcement images. The bill also authorizes the Director to prescribe necessary forms, procedures, and administrative rules to implement these programs effectively.

Additionally, H.D.2 appropriates funds from the State Highway Fund for the establishment of the Administrative Hearings Division and for implementation of the automated enforcement programs. These changes will reduce the burden on the Judiciary, improve administrative efficiency, and provide clearer procedural authority for enforcement and appeals.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support.