

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



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Tuesday, April 7, 2026
2:00 Pm
State Capitol, 325

HR 119 / HCR127
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEPARTMENT OF
LAW ENFORCEMENT TO COLLABORATE TO ESTABLISH A STATE HIGHWAY
POLICE FORCE.

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

The Department of Transportation (HDOT) supports HR119 and HCR127, which requests collaboration between HDOT and the Department of Law Enforcement to establish a state highway police force.

HDOT recognizes the continued rise in traffic fatalities and serious injuries on Hawai'i's roadways, including the increase to 129 fatalities in 2025, the highest in over a decade. Strengthening enforcement, in coordination with engineering and education efforts, is critical to improving roadway safety outcomes.

HDOT supports exploring enhanced coordination with the Department of Law Enforcement to improve traffic enforcement, incident response, and overall safety on state highways. A coordinated approach has the potential to improve compliance, reduce dangerous driving behaviors, and support more efficient incident management.

HDOT looks forward to working collaboratively with the Department of Law Enforcement to evaluate the feasibility, roles, and resource considerations associated with this effort.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of these measures.



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

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The Thirty-Third Legislature, State of Hawaii
House of Representatives
Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

April 7, 2026

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT TO COLLABORATE TO ESTABLISH A STATE HIGHWAY POLICE FORCE.

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO offers comments on resolution H.C.R 127/H.R 119, which requests the Department of Transportation and Department of Law Enforcement to collaborate to establish a state highway police force. HGEA recognizes the State's interest in improving highway safety and addressing dangerous conditions on our roadways.

At the same time, any proposal that could expand, redirect, or materially affect the duties of Deputy Sheriffs should be discussed with the Union and handled through the appropriate contractual and labor relations processes before moving forward. HGEA is also concerned that any effort to expand the duties of Deputy Sheriffs must be considered in light of ongoing staffing shortages across the division, including challenges in meeting courthouse security and other statewide operational needs already assigned to Sheriffs. If the State is contemplating a broader highway enforcement role for Deputy Sheriffs, that discussion should also include whether such expanded responsibilities warrant a corresponding review of classification and compensation. HGEA offers these comments to ensure that, as this proposal moves forward, any potential impact on Deputy Sheriffs is addressed through the appropriate process and with meaningful Union consultation and bargaining.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director

HCR-127

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 9:16:37 PM

Testimony for JHA on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

We should use special duty officers as scouts to inform other officers to enforce the traffic violation. There is no need for a special unit of police for our small island.