



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | KA 'OIHANA ALAKAU  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

Wednesday, April 8, 2026  
9:30 am  
State Capitol, 423

**HR51, HD1 / HCR55, HD1  
URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO  
UTILIZE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TO MITIGATE TRAFFIC AND IMPROVE  
ROAD SAFETY IN THE STATE.**

House Committee on Economic Development & Technology

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The Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) supports HR 51, HD1 and HCR 55, HD1.

The resolution urges the Hawaii Department of Transportation and the City and County of Honolulu to explore and implement artificial intelligence (AI) technologies to reduce traffic congestion and enhance road safety across the state. The resolution further requests a comprehensive report on the current state of traffic management technologies in use and an assessment of the feasibility of integrating AI-driven solutions into existing transportation infrastructure.

HDOT recognizes that traffic congestion and road safety are challenges facing Hawaii's transportation network. Oahu's urban corridors, in particular, experience significant levels of congestion that impact commute times, emergency response, air quality, and the overall quality of life for residents and visitors alike. Traditional traffic management approaches, while valuable, have limitations in dynamically responding to rapidly changing traffic conditions. Artificial intelligence offers a transformative opportunity to address these challenges through real-time data analysis, predictive traffic modeling, adaptive signal control, and enhanced incident detection capabilities.

HDOT has consistently demonstrated its commitment to improving traffic flow and pedestrian safety across the state, as evidenced by ongoing evaluations of roadway conditions, intersection safety analyses, and the implementation of traffic calming measures in coordination with the City and County of Honolulu's Department of Transportation Services (DTS). The integration of AI technologies into existing infrastructure aligns directly with these ongoing efforts and represents a forward-thinking, data-driven approach to transportation management.

Furthermore, the requested feasibility report will provide critical information to guide responsible and cost-effective deployment of AI technologies. A thorough assessment will allow HDOT to identify which existing systems, such as traffic signal controllers, surveillance cameras, and sensor networks, are most amenable to AI integration, and to prioritize investments where they will have the greatest safety and efficiency impact. This measured, evidence-based approach will ensure that Hawaii's transportation agencies can leverage emerging technologies in a manner that is both fiscally prudent and operationally sound.

HDOT looks forward to working collaboratively with the City and County of Honolulu and other relevant stakeholders to explore the full potential of artificial intelligence in modernizing Hawaii's transportation systems and delivering safer, more efficient roadways for all users.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support.

**HCR-55-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 2:56:45 PM

Testimony for ECD on 4/8/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Terri Yoshinaga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**1. Improved Traffic Efficiency and Reduced Congestion**

Artificial intelligence can analyze real-time traffic data to optimize signal timing, reduce bottlenecks, and improve overall traffic flow. In a state like Hawai‘i—where geographic constraints limit road expansion—AI offers a cost-effective way to maximize existing infrastructure and reduce commute times for residents.

**2. Enhanced Road Safety and Accident Prevention**

AI-powered systems can detect dangerous driving patterns, predict high-risk areas for accidents, and support faster emergency response times. By proactively identifying hazards and improving incident management, these technologies can help reduce traffic-related injuries and fatalities across the state.

**3. Data-Driven Decision Making for Transportation Planning**

Utilizing AI allows the Hawai‘i Department of Transportation and the City and County of Honolulu to make more informed, evidence-based decisions. By analyzing long-term traffic trends and usage patterns, agencies can better plan infrastructure investments, prioritize repairs, and implement targeted safety improvements that benefit both residents and visitors.