

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



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

EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

Deputy Directors
Nā Hope Luna Ho'okele
DREANALEE K. KALILI
TAMMY L. LEE
CURT T. OTAGURO
ROBIN K. SHISHIDO

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

**HR 88 / HCR96
URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO CONSIDER MOVING TO A
DEMERIT POINTS-BASED DRIVER'S LICENSING SYSTEM.**

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

The Department of Transportation (DOT) supports HR 88 and HCR 96, which urges the DOT to consider moving to a demerit points-based driver's licensing system.

This resolution aligns with the DOT's core mission to enhance road safety and reduce traffic-related injuries and fatalities. As noted in the resolution, Hawaii recorded 129 traffic fatalities in 2025, the highest since 2007 highlighting the urgent need for effective interventions. The DOT has previously acknowledged that over 90% of crashes are attributable to human behavior, underscoring the importance of addressing risky driving patterns through systematic oversight mechanisms.

A demerit point system offers a structured and transparent approach to monitoring driver behavior, providing clear consequences for violations while offering opportunities for corrective action and education. Research consistently shows that such systems correlate with reductions in traffic injuries, fatalities, and risky behaviors. With approximately 40 states and the District of Columbia already implementing similar frameworks, Hawaii stands to benefit from adopting best practices that have proven effective elsewhere.

Furthermore, the proposed system would provide the DOT with enhanced tools to identify and address dangerous driving trends proactively, supporting both public safety and responsible motorist accountability. The resolution appropriately emphasizes the value of incentivizing safe driving habits and promoting continuous improvement in driver's conduct.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support.

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

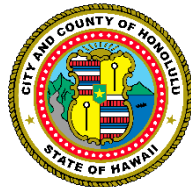
ADMINISTRATION

925 DILLINGHAM BOULEVARD, SUITE 257 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817
PHONE: (808) 768-3392 • FAX: (808) 768-3750 • WEBSITE: honolulu.gov

RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR
MEIA

KIMBERLY M. HASHIRO
DIRECTOR
PO'O

MEGAN JOHNSON
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
HOPE PO'O



April 6, 2026

The Honorable David A. Tarnas, Chair
The Honorable Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair
and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
State Capitol, Conference Room 325
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on
Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs:

SUBJECT: H.C.R. No. 96 - Urging the Department of Transportation to
Consider Moving to a Demerit Points-Based Driver's Licensing
System

H.R. No. 88 - Urging the Department of Transportation to
Consider Moving to a Demerit Points-Based Driver's Licensing
System

HEARING: Tuesday, April 7, 2026, 2:00 p.m.

The City and County of Honolulu, Department of Customer Services (CSD) respectfully offers **comments** on H.C.R. No. 96 and H.R. No. 88, which urges the Department of Transportation to consider moving to a demerit points-based driver's licensing system. 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 licensing program for the island of O'ahu. CSD DMV offers the following comments for your committee's consideration.

The counties will be responsible for implementing any driver license status changes, coding restrictions, processing compliance documentation, and ensuring accurate reflection of these actions within statewide driver record systems.

Implementation will require information technology updates, new suspension and restriction codes, system modifications, revised administrative procedures, staff training, and updated public guidance. Coordination between the Judiciary, Department of Transportation, and county DMVs will be essential to ensure consistent statewide application.

Given these significant operational considerations, we hope that the State Department of Transportation will consider providing clear guidance on funding, resources and the necessary time available for implementation. CSD DMV urges the Legislature to consider the impact on county operations and, should this matter move forward, requests a phased approach to implementation that will allow for a reasonable and adequate amount of time for the counties to research and assess implementation requirements, staffing, funding requirements, information technology and other resource impacts, necessary updated administrative procedures, staff training, and good public outreach.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on H.C.R. No. 96 and H.R. No. 88.

Sincerely,

Kimberly M. Hashiro
Director



www.AlohaILHawaii.org

Apr 7, 2026

MISSION

Aloha Independent Living Hawaii (AILH) dedicated to providing independent living programs and services for persons with disabilities in Hawaii.

We work together with the community and consumers to improve the quality of life through individual choices and access to services.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Roxanne U. Bolden

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The Honorable David A. Tarnas, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
The Thirty-Third Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

SUBJECT: HCR96 – Urging the Department of Transportation to Consider Moving to a Demerit Points-Based Driver’s Licensing System.

Chair and Members of the Committee:

Aloha Independent Living Hawaii (AILH) **would like to comment on HCR96**, which urges the Department of Transportation to consider moving to a demerit points-based driver’s licensing system. AILH is a center for Independent Living serving people with all types of disabilities statewide, including many who rely on driving as a critical tool for maintaining employment, accessing medical care, and participating in community life.

We recognize the urgent need to reduce traffic fatalities and injuries, especially given that 2025 saw one hundred twenty-nine traffic deaths, the highest number since 2007, and that human behavior contributes to the vast majority of crashes. At the same time, any shift from the current traffic abstract system to a demerit points-based model must be designed carefully so it does not inadvertently penalize drivers with disabilities whose conditions, medications, or adaptive devices may affect driving records in ways that can be misunderstood. From an Independent Living and civil rights perspective, it is essential that DOT’s consideration of a demerit system include robust disability impact analysis, accessible public input, and clear protections for drivers who are driving safely with appropriate accommodations.

If the Department of Transportation moves forward, AILH urges that any demerit-based system incorporate reasonable accommodations, clear



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appeal and review processes, and options for driver education or remediation that are accessible to disabled drivers, including those with cognitive or sensory disabilities. We also urge that disability stakeholders, including Centers for Independent Living and cross-disability organizations, be engaged early in system design to prevent unintended discrimination and ensure that efforts to improve roadway safety do not undermine disabled people's ability to live and work independently.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on HCR96 and for your attention to both traffic safety and disability equity..

Mahalo,

Roxanne Bolden

Executive Director

HCR-96

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 9:13:34 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 need to enforce the current laws.