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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.

HR-119

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.