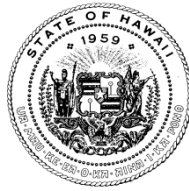


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Tuesday, March 31, 2026
10:00 am
State Capitol, 430

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

House Committee on Transportation

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.