

The Judiciary, State of Hawai'i
Ka 'Oihana Ho'okolokolo, Moku'āina 'o Hawai'i

Testimony to the Thirty-Third Legislature, 2026 Regular Session

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair
Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 31, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

By

Michelle Acosta
Deputy Chief Court Administrator, Hawai'i State Judiciary

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Bill No. and Title: Senate Bill No. 2667, SD1, HD1, Relating to Transportation.

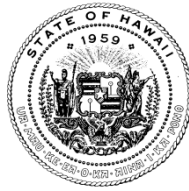
Purpose: Prohibits certain commercial vehicles from the far left lane on roads with three or more lanes going in the same direction. Restricts motor vehicles that tow a motor vehicle or trailer from the far left lane on roads with three or more lanes going in the same direction with exemptions. Specifies penalties for restricted motor vehicles who drive in the far left lane on roads with three or more lanes moving in the same direction. Applies restrictions and penalties to a county with a population of 500,000 or more. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary provides the following comments. The Judiciary respectfully requests that the effective date be set no earlier than January 1, 2027. This additional time is critical to ensure proper implementation by the courts which would include necessary updates to the Judiciary Information Management System (JIMS) and to the traffic payment system, and the adjustment of operational resources to account for a possible increase to the traffic court calendar.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2667, SD1, HD1.

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

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2:00 PM
State Capitol, 325

SB2667, SD1, HD1
RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

The Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) supports SB2667, SD1, HD1, which restricts motor vehicles that tow a motor vehicle or trailer from the far-left lane on roads with three or more lanes going in the same direction. This legislation improves safety by prohibiting oversized commercial vehicles and motor vehicles towing trailers from occupying the leftmost lane unless they are actively overtaking or turning left, thereby improving traffic flow and reducing the risk of accidents.

The bill specifically defines “commercial vehicle” in accordance with existing statutes, which excludes vehicles that are simply carrying freight or cargo. It also includes important exemptions for vehicles engaged in turning maneuvers, exiting roads, and those used for public transit, school buses, and emergency services. These exemptions ensure that essential transportation functions are not unduly hindered while still maintaining the intent to enhance road safety.

Additionally, the bill establishes clear penalties for violations, including fines and potential attendance at traffic safety courses, which will encourage compliance and reinforce responsible driving behavior. Importantly, the restriction applies only to counties with a population of 500,000 or more, aligning with the HDOT's understanding that high-density areas experience greater traffic congestion and thus require targeted interventions.

This measure reflects sound transportation policy and supports the HDOT's ongoing efforts to promote safer, more efficient roadways. The inclusion of specific language regarding when such vehicles may legally occupy the left lane particularly during overtaking or turning ensures that the law is both enforceable and practical for drivers and law enforcement alike.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.