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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

Thursday, March 19, 2026  
8:30 AM  
State Capitol, 430

**SB2697, SD1**  
**RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION**

House Committee on Transportation

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The Department of Transportation (DOT) supports S.B. 2697, S.D.1 , relating to transportation.

This bill addresses several critical issues in traffic safety and vehicle compliance. It prohibits driving on shoulder lanes except under specified conditions, which will help maintain the integrity of these lanes for emergency use and improve overall traffic flow. The bill also authorizes the impoundment and seizure of vehicles with expired registrations exceeding three and five years respectively, which will encourage timely registration and ensure that vehicles on our roads meet current safety and emissions standards.

The DOT particularly supports the increased fines for out-of-state vehicle registration violations. This measure will help ensure that all vehicles operating on Hawaii's roads are properly registered and compliant with state laws, contributing to fair enforcement and increased safety for all road users.

The establishment of penalties for HOV lane violations is another crucial aspect of this bill. HOV lanes are designed to encourage carpooling and reduce traffic congestion. Strengthening enforcement of these lanes will help maintain their effectiveness and encourage more drivers to participate in ride-sharing.

Overall, S.B. 2697, S.D. 1 aligns with the DOT's mission to enhance road safety, improve traffic management, and ensure compliance with vehicle regulations. These measures will contribute to a safer and more efficient transportation system for all Hawaii residents and visitors.

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

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

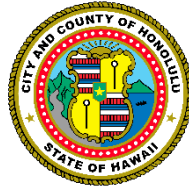
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March 17, 2026

The Honorable Darius K. Kila, Chair  
The Honorable Tyson K. Miyake, Vice Chair  
and Members of the House Committee on Transportation  
State Capitol, Conference Room 430  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii'i 96813

Dear Chair Kila, Vice Chair Miyake, and Members of the House Committee on Transportation:

SUBJECT: S.B. No. 2697, S.D. 1 - Relating To Transportation  
HEARING: Thursday, March 19, 2026, 8:30 a.m.

The City and County of Honolulu, Department of Customer Services (CSD) respectfully offers **comments** to S.B. No. 2697, S.D. 1 for your committee's consideration. 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 registration program for the island of O'ahu. While CSD appreciates the intent of the proposed legislation, we have concerns regarding its application and its legal implications.

S.B. No. 2697, S.D. 1 addresses several transportation-related matters, including shoulder lane use, enforcement actions for vehicles with long-expired registrations, penalties for failure to register out-of-state vehicles, and revised penalties for certain traffic violations. CSD's comments are limited to provisions affecting the administration of motor vehicle registration.

The provisions authorizing the Department of Transportation and county police departments to impound or cause to tow vehicles that are not currently registered and have not been registered for the three previous consecutive years or more will require

careful coordination among all enforcement agencies and county motor vehicle registration offices.

Implementation will require updates to registration databases and internal procedures to ensure accurate verification of registration status, proper calculation of updated registration fees and penalties, and timely processing of redemptions. Clear communication protocols between enforcement agencies and DMV offices will be essential to ensure that vehicle records accurately reflect impoundment and towing actions.

In addition, statutory clarity regarding notice requirements, redemption timelines, documentation standards, and fee assessments will be critical to ensure consistent application across all counties and to minimize disputes between vehicle owners, law enforcement agencies, and towing operators. Existing procedures and contractual arrangements may require review and modification to align with any new statutory authority.

Given these significant operational considerations, we respectfully request the Legislature provide 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 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.

With these considerations, CSD appreciates the opportunity to provide **comments** on S.B. No. 2697, S.D. 1.

Sincerely,

*for* Kimberly M. Hashiro  
Director

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March 17, 2026

Rep. Darius K. Kila, Chair  
Rep. Tyson K. Miyake, Vice Chair  
Committee on Transportation  
The Senate  
33<sup>rd</sup> Legislature, State of Hawai`i

via: <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov>

Dear Committee leadership and members,

Re: **COMMENTS ON SB2697, SD1 RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION**

DATE: Thursday, March 19, 2026  
TIME: 8:30 a.m.  
PLACE: Conference Room 430 & Videoconference  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

This bill proposes amendments to chapter 291C, our Statewide Traffic Code.

Section 1 “Shoulder lanes; use prohibited” would prohibit “vehicles” from being driven on the shoulder, and offenders would be subject to a fine. However, “vehicle” is defined in Chapter 291C as “every device in, upon, or by which any person or property is or may be transported or drawn upon a roadway or highway, *including mopeds and bicycles*”, HRS § 291C-1. Unfortunately, transportation by bicycle often requires use of the shoulders. Accordingly, it is right “vehicle” is replaced with “motor vehicle.” HRS § 291C-1 (“Motor vehicle” means every vehicle which is self-propelled and every vehicle which is propelled by electric power but not operated upon rails but excludes a moped.”).

The Senate Committee on Transportation made 12 substantive changes to the original draft of this bill, one of which seriously undermine its intent or removing derelict vehicles. The Transportation Committee reports:

Your Committee further finds that abandoned and derelict vehicles clutter the State's roadways and create unsafe road conditions. While these vehicles often have registrations that have been expired for three or more years, the Department of Transportation does not currently possess the authority to

impound and dispose of these vehicles. . . . Your Committee also finds that authorizing the Department of Transportation to impound and dispose of certain vehicles will contribute to safer roadways. . . . This measure will contribute to safer, more efficient roadways and improved traffic management across the State.

Notwithstanding, the Committee amended the original draft to delete language that authorizes the Department of Transportation and county police departments to impound a vehicle parked in certain locations with an expired registration of five years or more and dispose of the vehicle by public auction. Critically, SD1 does not provide for disposition of an impounded vehicle in the event the vehicle is not recovered by the titled owner or the owner is not known, is deceased, or otherwise is not located. It is right that the deleted provision is revived. See the original bill (distinguishing the procedure for a 3 yr derelict vehicle and a vehicle five or more years derelict):

For a vehicle with an expired registration of five years or more that is parked on a public roadway or in a commercial parking lot that is open to the public, seize and dispose of the vehicle, during which time the vehicle shall be subject to redemption by its owner by payment of an updated registration, together with any penalties incurred and the cost of storage and other charges incident to the seizure of the vehicle. If the owner of the vehicle fails to redeem the vehicle within ten days after seizure, the vehicle shall be disposed of in the same manner as when a vehicle is put up for public auction and for which no bid is received; provided that if no valid ownership is proven, a fifteen-day notice shall be made available to the public prior to the disposal of the vehicle.

Please also reconsider the language in Section 1(d) “The department of transportation and the county police departments may establish rules as necessary for the enforcement of this section.” County police departments do not have rulemaking authority.

Mahalo for your attention the matter of derelict passenger cars and scofflaw passenger car owners. Aloha `āina.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

Sincerely,

/s/ Georgette A. Yaindl  
GEORGETTE ANNE YAINDL