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HOUSE COMMITTEE on TRANSPORTATION
Tuesday - March 24, 2026- 2:00pm

Hawai'i Bicycling League Strongly Supports SB 2146, SD1, HD1, relating to Traffic Infractions

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Eduardo Hernandez and I am the Advocacy Director of the Hawai'i Bicycling League (HBL). We are a non-profit organization founded in 1975 with the mission of enabling more people to ride bicycles for health, recreation, and transportation. We strive to create communities across our islands that have safe, accessible, and inclusive environments for people to bike, walk, and roll.

HBL strongly supports SB2146, SD1, HD1, to study how a tiered structure for speeding infractions, like one used in Finland, can create a more robust and equitable system to deter speeding. As vulnerable road users, people who bike are disproportionately affected by speeding vehicles, and too often are seriously injured or killed. Speeding remains one of the most difficult driver behaviors to curtail, accounting for 30%, or 12,000 of all the traffic fatalities nationwide in 2023, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation.

But that same year speed was a factor in 58% of Hawai'i traffic fatalities — the highest in the country by 13 percentage points above Rhode Island. In 2025, Hawai'i had the deadliest year in decades on our roadways. Meanwhile in 2024, Helsinki, the capital of Finland, with a population of nearly 700,000 residents went a full year without a single traffic fatality. They did this through a combination of methods, including slowing allowable speeds and a tiered traffic infraction system that incentivizes drivers to slow down.

In Hawai'i, we have adopted Vision Zero as a traffic safety goal at the State and County levels, but we are not realizing the intended goals. Studying the model that Finland uses could raise awareness for all road users about the need to better manage speeding, as well as identify practical solutions that Hawai'i can implement for safer outcomes.

I urge you to pass SB 2146, SD1, HD1 and move it along for further consideration this legislative session.

Mahalo for the opportunity to share testimony on this important public safety matter..

S/Eduardo Hernandez

Eduardo Hernandez
Advocacy Director
Hawai'i Bicycling League