



ADVOCATES
FOR HIGHWAY
& AUTO SAFETY

January 31, 2024

The Honorable Chris Todd, Chair
The Honorable Darius Kila, Vice Chair
House Committee on Transportation
Hawaii State Legislature
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Todd and Vice Chair Kila:

Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety (Advocates), an alliance of consumer, safety, medical, public health and law enforcement groups and insurance companies working together to pass highway and auto safety laws that prevent crashes, save lives, reduce injuries, and contain costs, supports enactment of House Bill (HB) 2267/Senate Bill (SB) 2443. This legislation would authorize the state and its counties to utilize automated speed enforcement (ASE) on state and county highways. We urge you to advance HB 2267/SB 2443 to implement this proven, lifesaving technology to curb speeding and the deadly consequences.

No state suffers more from speeding-related traffic fatalities than Hawaii. In 2021, there were 94 fatalities on Hawaii's roads, and nearly half involved speeding.ⁱ To put this in perspective, speeding was a factor in 29 percent of U.S. motor vehicle fatalities in 2021,ⁱⁱ and no other state is close to the Aloha State's 48 percent.ⁱⁱⁱ In addition, Hawaii incurred \$580 million in economic harm, which is equivalent to \$404 per resident, due to motor vehicle crashes according to a 2019 analysis.^{iv} Traffic safety is a serious and costly issue in urgent need of proven solutions.

Small increases in speed cause serious declines in safety. Crash tests show that speed upticks of even five to ten miles-per-hour (mph) greatly escalate a driver's risk of injury or death.^v Speed increases also immensely impact pedestrians and other vulnerable road users (VRUs). The average risk of death for a pedestrian is 10 percent at an impact speed of 23 mph, 25 percent at 32 mph, and 50 percent at 42 mph.^{vi} Further, drivers who speed have been shown to exhibit additional deadly driving behaviors; more than half (51 percent) of speeding passenger vehicle drivers in fatal crashes were unbuckled, compared to 23 percent of non-speeding drivers.^{vii}

Speed safety cameras are proven to deter speeding and its impact and are recommended for state and local adoption by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), among others.^{viii} A study by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) found that speed safety cameras alone resulted in a 19 percent reduction in the likelihood that a crash caused a fatal or incapacitating injury.^{ix} Similarly, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) found that ASE reduces fatalities and injuries by 20-37 percent and is particularly effective in school and construction zones.^x

Law enforcement risk their lives when performing their duties on the roadways every day, and it is implausible for law enforcement officers to be everywhere and catch every violation. ASE augments traditional enforcement without requiring a traffic stop.

Advocates urges you to advance HB 2267/SB 2443 to employ speed safety cameras to save lives. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Catherine Chase
President

cc: Transportation Committee members

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- ⁱ State Traffic Safety Information for Hawaii (2021), NHSTA, available at <https://cdan.dot.gov/stsi.htm>.
 - ⁱⁱ NHTSA. (2023). Overview of Motor Vehicle Crashes in 2021. U.S. Department of Transportation, available at <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/813435>.
 - ⁱⁱⁱ Traffic Safety Facts: 2021 Data, Speeding, NHTSA, July 2023, DOT HS 813 473, available at <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/813473>.
 - ^{iv} The Economic and Societal Impact of Motor Vehicle Crashes, 2019, NHTSA, Feb. 2023, DOT HS 813 403, available at <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/813403>.
 - ^v Impact of Speeds on Drivers and Vehicles – Results from Crash Tests, AAA Foundation for Safety, Humanetics, and IIHS, Jan. 2021, available at <https://www.iihs.org/api/datastore/document/bibliography/2218>.
 - ^{vi} Impact Speed and a Pedestrian’s Risk of Severe Injury or Death, AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, Sep. 2011., available at <https://aaafoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/2011PedestrianRiskVsSpeedReport.pdf>.
 - ^{vii} Traffic Safety Facts 2021 Data: Speeding, NHTSA, Jul. 2023, DOT HS 813 473, available at <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/813473>.
 - ^{viii} Reducing Speeding-Related Crashes Involving Passenger Vehicles, NTSB, July 2017, SS-17-01, available at <https://www.nts.gov/safety/safety-studies/Documents/SS1701.pdf>.
 - ^{ix} Effects of Automated Speed Enforcement in Montgomery County Maryland on Vehicle Speeds, Public Opinion and Crashes, IIHS, August; available at <https://www.iihs.org/topics/bibliography/ref/2097>.
 - ^x Speed Safety Camera Program Planning and Operations Guide, Federal Highway Administration, January 2023, available at [Speed Safety Camera Program Planning and Operations Guide](#).