



May 3, 2024

The Honorable Josh Green  
Governor of Hawaii  
Office of the Governor  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Governor Green:

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 Senate Bill (SB) 2443/House Bill (HB) 2267 and respectfully requests you sign it into law. This legislation will authorize Hawaii to employ speed safety cameras where red light cameras are present, and benefit from this proven, lifesaving technology to curb speeding and the deadly consequences.

No state suffers more from speeding than Hawaii. In 2021, there were 94 fatalities on Hawaii's roads, and nearly half involved speeding according to the most recent data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).<sup>i</sup> To put this in perspective, speeding was a factor in 29 percent of all U.S. motor vehicle fatalities in 2021,<sup>ii</sup> and no other state is close to the Aloha State which recorded speeding as a factor in 48 percent of traffic fatalities.<sup>iii</sup> In addition to the physical and emotional damage, traffic crashes are also costly. Hawaii incurred \$580 million in economic harm, which is equivalent to \$404 per resident, due to motor vehicle crashes according to a 2019 analysis.<sup>iv</sup>

Small increases in speed cause serious declines in safety, especially for pedestrians and other vulnerable road users (VRUs). 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.<sup>v</sup> 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.<sup>vi</sup>

Speed safety cameras are proven to deter speeding and its impact and are recommended by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), among others.<sup>vii</sup> 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.<sup>viii</sup>

Simply put, speed safety cameras save lives. Enactment of SB 2443/HB 2267 will improve safety for Hawaii families and visitors. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Catherine Chase  
President

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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/datastoredocument/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 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>.
- viii 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>.