



ADVOCATES  
FOR HIGHWAY  
& AUTO SAFETY

March 16, 2026

The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair  
The Honorable Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Transportation  
Hawaii State Legislature  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Inouye and Vice Chair Elefante:

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) 2023 to establish an intelligent speed assistance (ISA) program. Use of ISA by specified individuals convicted of excessive speeding or racing on a highway would be required while judges would be able to require ISA for other repeat speeding offenders. This safety upgrade is critical and timely.

In 2024, there were an overall estimated 102<sup>1</sup> fatalities on Hawaii roads according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) which is a 10 percent increase since 2015.<sup>2</sup> Additionally, 58 percent of Hawaii traffic deaths in 2023 involved speeding which is the highest proportion of any state, much higher than any other state (the next highest state is 45 percent) and double the national average of 29 percent.<sup>3</sup> Moreover, traffic fatalities involving speeding increased 50 percent in the state from 2014 to 2023.<sup>4</sup>

In addition to the physical and emotional impact, these crashes impose a tremendous financial burden. Traffic crashes cause \$580 million of economic damage to Hawaii annually which is equivalent to a “crash tax” of \$410 per resident, according to a 2019 analysis.<sup>5</sup> When updated for inflation alone, in 2026, costs would equate to \$749 million to the state.<sup>6</sup>

Active ISA is technology that can identify the speed limit in real time and limit the speed of vehicles exceeding the specified threshold, which in this bill’s case is the posted speed limit. A recent study on an ISA pilot program for city fleet vehicles in New York City, which involved 500 vehicles and over 2.9 million miles of driving, showed ISA produced a 64 percent reduction in overall time spent speeding (more than 11 miles per hour [mph] over limit), including an 82 percent reduction in time spent speeding on higher-speed roads (50 mph).<sup>7</sup> Due to the program’s success, it is now being expanded to 2,100 vehicles.<sup>8</sup>

ISA technology is urgently needed because excess speed contributes to both the frequency and severity of motor vehicle crashes and proves especially dangerous for vulnerable road users (VRUs) such as pedestrians, bicyclists and roadside first responders who lack the protective structure of a vehicle. Small increases in speed cause serious declines in safety. 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>9</sup> Vehicle occupants suffer its impacts as well, crash tests showed that modest five to 10 mph increases in speed can have a severe impact on a driver’s risk of injury or death.<sup>10</sup> VRUs are particularly at risk in Hawaii as 32 percent of those killed in traffic crashes in 2023 were a pedestrian, bicyclist or other cyclist compared to the national average of 21 percent.<sup>11</sup>

We strongly urge the passage of HB 2023. Last year Washington and Virginia became the first states to enact ISA laws, following the District of Columbia doing so in 2024, and many states have pending ISA legislation this year including California and Arizona, which recently passed an ISA bill in the House. Hawaii can become a leader in this emerging safety trend and save lives by enacting HB 2023. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Catherine Chase, President

cc: Senate Committee on Transportation members

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- <sup>1</sup> Traffic Safety Facts: Crash Stats, Early Estimate of Motor Vehicle Traffic Fatalities in 2024, NHTSA, April 2025, DOT HS 813 710, available at <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/813710>.
- <sup>2</sup> State Traffic Safety Information for Hawaii, NHTSA, available at <https://cdan.dot.gov/STSI/stsi.htm>.
- <sup>3</sup> State Traffic Safety Information for Hawaii, NHTSA, available at <https://cdan.dot.gov/STSI/stsi.htm>; Traffic Safety Facts 2023 Data: Speeding, NHTSA, Jun. 2025, DOT HS 813 721, available at <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/813721>.
- <sup>4</sup> State Traffic Safety Information for Hawaii, NHTSA, available at <https://cdan.dot.gov/STSI/stsi.htm>.
- <sup>5</sup> 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>.
- <sup>6</sup> CPI Inflation Calculator, BLS, January 2019 to January 2026 dollars, available [here](#).
- <sup>7</sup> New York City Department of Citywide Administrative Services. (2024, October 30). DCAS & U.S. DOT Volpe Announce Municipal Speeding Reduction of 64% in New Report on Intelligent Speed Assistance [Press release] available [here](#).
- <sup>8</sup> New York City Department of Citywide Administrative Services. (2024, October 30). DCAS & U.S. DOT Volpe Announce Municipal Speeding Reduction of 64% in New Report on Intelligent Speed Assistance [Press release] available [here](#).
- <sup>9</sup> 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>.
- <sup>10</sup> 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>.
- <sup>11</sup> State Traffic Safety Information for Hawaii, NHTSA, available at <https://cdan.dot.gov/STSI/stsi.htm>; Traffic Safety Facts 2023 Data: Summary of Motor Vehicle Traffic Crashes, NHTSA, Oct. 2025, DOT HS 813 762, available at <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/813762>.