



May 14, 2026

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 Section 5 of Senate Bill (SB) 3157, to expand the ability to use automated speed enforcement (ASE) at high-risk roadway locations in Honolulu County and respectfully requests you sign it into law.

In 2025, there were an overall estimated 129<sup>1</sup> fatalities on Hawaii roads according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) which is a 27 percent increase since 2024.<sup>2</sup> Additionally, in 2024, speeding was a factor in 42 percent of fatal crashes in the state, much higher than the national average of 29 percent, and resulted in 43 tragic deaths.<sup>3</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>4</sup> When updated for inflation alone, in 2026, costs would equate to \$749 million to the state.<sup>5</sup>

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.<sup>6</sup> 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.<sup>7</sup> VRUs are particularly at risk in Hawaii as 41 percent of those killed in traffic crashes in 2024 were a pedestrian, bicyclist or other cyclist, which is nearly double the national average of 21 percent.<sup>8</sup>

Speed safety cameras are verified to deter speeding and its impact and are recommended for adoption by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), among others.<sup>9</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>10</sup> Similarly, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) found that automated speed enforcement reduces fatalities and injuries by 20-37 percent and is particularly effective in school and construction zones.<sup>11</sup> A study by Carnegie Mellon University of speed safety cameras in Philadelphia, PA found a 90 percent reduction in speeding and an approximately 50 percent decrease in crashes and injuries relative to the most similar arterials, all arterials and local roads in Philadelphia.<sup>12</sup>

We appreciate your consideration and ask you to sign SB 3157 to enhance safety.

Sincerely,

Peter Kurdock, General Counsel

<sup>1</sup> Traffic Safety Facts: Crash Stats, Early Estimate of Motor Vehicle Traffic Fatalities in 2025, NHTSA, April 2026, DOT HS 813 800, available at <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/813800>.

<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>.

<sup>4</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>5</sup> CPI Inflation Calculator, BLS, January 2019 to January 2026 dollars, available [here](https://www.bls.gov/inflation-calculator/).

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7 Impact Speed and a Pedestrian’s Risk of Severe Injury or Death, AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, Sep. 2011., available at  
<https://aaaafoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/2011PedestrianRiskVsSpeedReport.pdf>.

8 State Traffic Safety Information for Hawaii, NHTSA, available at <https://cdan.dot.gov/STSI/stsi.htm>; Traffic Safety Facts 2024 Data: Summary of Motor  
Vehicle Traffic Crashes, NHTSA, Apr. 2026, DOT HS 813 791, available at <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/813791>.

9 Reducing Speeding-Related Crashes Involving Passenger Vehicles, NTSB, July 2017, SS-17-01, available at  
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10 Effects of Automated Speed Enforcement in Montgomery County Maryland on Vehicle Speeds, Public Opinion and Crashes,  
IIHS; available at <https://www.iihs.org/topics/bibliography/ref/2097>.

11 Speed Safety Camera Program Planning and Operations Guide, Federal Highway Administration, January 2023, available at  
[Speed Safety Camera Program Planning and Operations Guide](#).

12 Evaluating the Effectiveness of Urban Speed Cameras on Traffic Safety in a Period of Dramatic Change, Carnegie Mellon University, July 2024, available at  
[https://ppms.cit.cmu.edu/media/project\\_files/Guerra\\_Erick\\_420.pdf](https://ppms.cit.cmu.edu/media/project_files/Guerra_Erick_420.pdf).