

TESTIMONY OF
JAMES P. GRIFFIN, Ph.D.
CHAIR, PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
STATE OF HAWAII

TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
FINANCE

March 31, 2021
2:30 p.m.

Chair Luke and Members of the Committee:

MEASURE: S.B. No. 766 HD1

TITLE: RELATING TO MOTOR CARRIER PENALTIES.

DESCRIPTION: Allows a penalty of up to \$5,000 for the fourth or subsequent violations of the motor carrier law within one calendar year.

POSITION:

The Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) supports this measure and offers the following comments for consideration.

COMMENTS:

The Commission supports this measure, which would grant the Commission with additional flexibility in determining penalties for violations by regulated motor carriers. The Commission finds that, in certain instances, the civil penalty’s statutory limit of \$1,000 does not sufficiently encourage repeat violators to comply with the provisions of Chapter 271, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and lawful Commission orders.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



March 31, 2021

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
ON SB 766 HD1 RELATING TO MOTOR CARRIER PENALTIES**

Aloha Chair Luke, and committee members. I am Gareth Sakakida Managing Director of the Hawaii Transportation Association (HTA) with over 375 members involved with the commercial ground transportation industry.

HTA supports this bill. The trucking and tour vehicle industries have long contended with fly by night operators who seek to skirt the requirements of motor carrier operations which the Public Utilities Commission enforces.

The PUC's abilities need to be strengthened and increased penalties are one way of achieving this.

Mahalo.

SB-766-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 8:30:17 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2021 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kimeona Kane	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I support SB766 HD1.

Mahalo,
Kimeona Kane

SB-766-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 9:36:04 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2021 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chad Taniguchi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB766HD1. Regulated motor carriers can be monitored for safety. As such they have an interest in conducting training of their drivers to meet safety requirements and best practices.

About 11 years ago the Hawaii Bicycling League approached Roberts Hawaii after their drivers were involved in 5 fatal collisions in 5 years that killed 5 pedestrians and bicyclists from 2006-2010. After seeing how people walking and bicycling FEEL when large buses and vans drive dangerously, Roberts Hawaii implemented a safe driving program that their trainers and drivers embraced wholeheartedly. Since 2010 Roberts Hawaii has been involved in ZERO pedestrian or bicyclist fatalities.

The PUC is well suited to herd noncompliant drivers and companies into compliance for safety by starting with the pocketbook where it hurts. This is a far better starting point than after a collision that seriously injures or hurts an innocent person on the roads.