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**PRESENTATION OF
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
OFFICE OF CONSUMER PROTECTION**

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

**TWENTY-FOURTH STATE LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2008**

**Wednesday, February 13, 2008
9:25 a.m.**

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 509, HD1 – RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION.

TO THE HONORABLE JOSEPH M. SOUKI, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE
COMMITTEE:

The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department") appreciates the opportunity to testify regarding House Bill No. 509, HD1, Relating to Transportation. My name is Stephen Levins, and I am the Executive Director of the Department's Office of Consumer Protection.

House Bill No. 509, HD1 seeks to prohibit the imposition of unhooking fees by towing companies if the owner of a vehicle targeted for towing appears on the scene before the vehicle has been moved by a tow truck. This amendment is unnecessary because it is already the law in the State of Hawaii. It was only a mere seven months

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ago that this Legislature last amended the towing law, section 290-11 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes. Pursuant to Act 269, towing fees increased from \$55 to \$65, dolly towing fees from \$65 to \$75, daily storage fees from \$20 to \$25, and mileage fees from \$6.50 per mile to \$7.50 per mile. In recognition of these significant monetary increases that would be absorbed by Hawaii consumers, the Legislature prohibited overtime charges and unhooking fees. Since nothing has really changed in the past seven months warranting its reassessment, the Department does not believe that the towing law needs to be changed once again.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 509, HD1. I will be happy to answer any questions that the members of the Committee may have.