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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
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February 7, 2011

TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

HOUSE BILL NO. 1493

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

The Department of Transportation supports this bill.

All commercial motor vehicles are currently regulated by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations and are required to have a coupling device and safety devices to prevent the towed vehicle from breaking loose in the event the coupling device fails or becomes disconnected, pursuant to CFR 393.70.

This regulation ensures that the operator of the vehicle utilizes the proper safety apparatus when towing any trailer, semi-trailer, pole trailers or any combination thereof. This provides safe roads for all roadway users.



February 7, 2011

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
ON HB 1493 RELATING TO HIGHWAY SAFETY**

Thank you Chair Souki and committee members. I am Gareth Sakakida, Managing Director of the Hawaii Transportation Association (HTA) with over 400 transportation related members throughout the state of Hawaii.

Hawaii Transportation Association has concerns about this bill.

If the intent is to have this bill apply to trucks and trailers with a GVWR of 10,000 lbs. or less, then we can support the intent of the bill. These vehicles do not currently have towing regulations and should have them.

In this case we recommend the following amendment. Amend page 2, line 11, to read: **"(e) This section shall not apply to towing companies or to commercial motor vehicles (1) and (2) as defined in chapter 286-2."**

However, if the intent of this bill is to also apply to commercial motor vehicles (1) and (2) as defined in chapter 286-2, then we oppose this bill.

These commercial motor vehicles are already subject to rules under Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations Section 393.43 "Breakaway and emergency braking," and Section 393.70 "Coupling devices and towing methods, except for driveaway-towaway operations," which are much more comprehensive than the provisions in this bill.

Thank you.