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IN REPLY REFER TO:

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S.B. 2447
RELATING TO HIGHWAY SAFETY

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

The Department of Transportation opposes SB 2247. There are times when a new car that is sold does not meet the current Hawaii inspection requirements. Our Motor Vehicle Safety Office has at times received complaints from new car owners pertaining to something as simple as a burned out brake lamp that was not detected when their new car was inspected by a new car dealer. Invariably, the inspector claims that the lamp burned out after the inspection was completed. If a lamp burns out that quickly, then it is possible that a few lamps will burn out or other more potentially serious things may go wrong in the present two year interval of new car inspections. Drivers drive their vehicles differently and accumulate mileage at different rates. Car dealers cannot guarantee that a new car will not need new tires after one or two years because they have no control over the way people drive their cars or the distances they drive them. It is not uncommon that motorists will neglect to check their vehicle's lamps, tires and other items that are normally inspected during a periodic inspection. Neither is it uncommon for owners to modify their vehicles.

Hawaii has one of the least expensive inspection programs in the country, and stations are well dispersed throughout the state. We do not believe that requiring a two-year old vehicle to go through an inspection is an unreasonable requirement to ensure that the vehicles on our roads are safe for Hawaii's residents and visitors.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

