

**PRESENTATION OF THE
MOTOR VEHICLE REPAIR INDUSTRY BOARD**

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2014

Wednesday, February 19, 2014
3:00 p.m.

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2273, RELATING TO THE MOTOR
VEHICLE MECHANIC CERTIFICATION PROGRAM.**

TO THE HONORABLE ANGUS L.K. MCKELVEY, Chair,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Steven Chow and I am the Chairperson and a public member of the Motor Vehicle Repair Industry Board ("Board"). Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of House Bill No. 2273, Relating to the Motor Vehicle Mechanic Certification Board, which is an Administration bill.

House Bill No. 2273 proposes to amend section 437B-23, Hawaii Revised Statutes, by deleting the requirement that the Board contract solely with the University of Hawaii ("UH") for assistance in administering the Motor Vehicle Mechanic Certification Program ("Program"). The Board previously met on this bill and wholeheartedly supports the measure which would provide the Board flexibility to enter into written agreements with a variety of organizations that can assist the Board with the Program.

When the law was enacted, there was no nationally recognized organization that provided education, training, and testing for motor vehicle mechanics. Thus, the mandate fulfilled the need to ensure that mechanics

received training for the protection of the public. Since those early days, the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence ("ASE") has become widely accepted and recognized as the standard industry credential for motor vehicle mechanics. The Board has adopted the ASE certification as its standard for licensure of automotive and heavy duty truck mechanics.

The Board finds that ASE, directly or through its partners, proactively assists its candidates to prepare for certification and ultimately licensure in the following multitude of ways: study guides, practice tests, test taking tips, online demonstrations, live agent assistance by phone or online chat, live online classes, training videos, self-help articles, etc. Some of these resources are free of charge to the user. Equally as important is that the Board is not required to pay for any of these programs for the benefit of its licensees.

Consequently, the Board finds that the mandate for it to contract solely with UH has outlived its useful purpose and is no longer necessary.

For these reasons, the Board strongly supports this Administration bill and requests that the measure be passed out of committee as is. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 2273.