

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

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2014

Friday, March 28, 2014
9:25 a.m.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2273, S.D. 1, RELATING TO THE MOTOR
VEHICLE MECHANIC CERTIFICATION PROGRAM.**

TO THE HONORABLE DAVID Y. IGE, 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 submit written testimony in strong support of House Bill No. 2273, S.D. 1, Relating to the Motor Vehicle Mechanic Certification Board, which is an Administration bill.

As the Committee is aware, the Standing Committees on Higher Education and Commerce and Consumer Protection heard the bill and passed it out of committee with non-substantive amendments.

House Bill No. 2273, S.D. 1, 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 the Motor Vehicle Mechanic Certification Program ("Program"). The Board strongly supports this measure which would

provide the Board flexibility to enter into written agreements with a variety of organizations, including UH, to assist the Board with the Program.

For the Committee's information, the Board and UH have discussed this proposal and are in complete agreement. In fact, UH, through its Honolulu Community College ("HCC"), maintains that the National Institute Automotive Service Excellence ("ASE") and its partners can provide services that far exceed what UH is able to do.

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 for mechanics to be trained in order to protect the public. Since then, the 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 as is. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of House Bill No. 2273, S.D. 1.