

# HB 2273

## Testimony

Measure Title:	RELATING TO THE MOTOR VEHICLE MECHANIC CERTIFICATION PROGRAM.
Report Title:	Motor Vehicle Repair Industry; Motor Vehicle Mechanic Certification Program
Description:	Authorizes the Motor Vehicle Repair Industry Board to enter into agreements with entities, educational institutions, or other organizations, as necessary, to ensure that motor vehicle mechanics' knowledge of motor vehicle repairs are current and in line with industry standards.
Companion:	<a href="#">SB2823</a>
Package:	Governor
Current Referral:	HRE/CPN, WAM
Introducer(s):	SOUKI (Introduced by request of another party)

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

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
HIGHER EDUCATION

AND

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2014

Friday, March 14, 2014  
10:00 a.m.

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

TO THE HONORABLE BRIAN T. TANIGUCHI, CHAIR, and  
TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR,  
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEES:

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.

For the Committees' information, this bill was heard by the House Committees on Transportation and Consumer Protection and Commerce. Both Committees passed the bill out of committee without amendments.

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 wholeheartedly

supports this measure which would provide the Board flexibility to enter into written agreements with a variety of organizations to assist the Board with the Program. Under the proposal, the Board would still be able to contract with UH.

For the Committees' information, the Board and UH have discussed this proposal and are in complete agreement. In fact, UH, through its Honolulu Community College ("HCC"), has informed the Board that the National Institute Automotive Service Excellence ("ASE") and its partners can provide services that 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 testify in support of House Bill No. 2273.