



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

IN REPLY REFER TO:

March 3, 2015  
2:45 p.m.  
State Capitol, Room 229

**S.B. 346**  
**RELATING TO THE STATEWIDE TRAFFIC CODE**

Senate Committee on Transportation

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The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports the intent of S.B. 346** to prohibit trucks from using the left-most lane on any roadway with three or more lanes and to establish a maximum truck speed limit of 55 miles per hour. Although S.B. 346 has the potential to improve traffic flow and increase safety, the DOT has the following concerns on a blanket lane use restriction:

1. Section 291C-49(3) H.R.S. already provides the authority necessary to restrict lane use through official signing.
2. Although this kind of restriction has been utilized on various modern interstates in a few jurisdictions, implementing this restriction for all roadways having three or more lanes is not appropriate. Roadways on Oahu leading to, through and around Downtown Honolulu were built prior to today's modernized design and access management criteria. Closely spaced ramps, intersections and driveways reduce the creation of gaps necessary for vehicles to merge, weave, enter and change lane comfortably. S.B. 346 will create more challenging conditions for all roadway users by congesting the right lanes with larger, slower moving vehicles making lane transitions more difficult. The end result may actually be a slower traffic flow rather than what is intended to help improve traffic flow and safety;
3. S.B. 346 will also result in heavy vehicles making last-minute changes when left turns or exits are necessary. These heavy vehicles are not as maneuverable as passenger vehicles and all roadway users will be exposed to increased conflicts in these last-minute lane changes; and
4. When the A.M. zipper lane is deployed, only the far left-most westbound freeway lane is allowed to proceed towards Waianae when approaching the H-1/H-2 Junction. S.B. 346 will prohibit heavy vehicles from using this lane thereby decreasing their freeway access to Ewa, Kapolei, Campbell Industrial Park and Kalaeloa Barbers Point Harbor.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

TO: Members of the Committee on Transportation

FROM: Natalie Iwasa  
Honolulu, HI 96825  
808-395-3233

HEARING: 2:45 p.m. Tuesday, March 3, 2015

SUBJECT: SB 346 Trucks in Left Travel Lanes - **COMMENTS**

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide testimony on SB346, which would prohibit large vehicles from travelling in the far left lane of roadways with three or more lanes in the same direction, with certain exceptions.

As the bill is currently written, large trucks would be prohibited from using the left lane on Kalaniana'ole Hwy. in east Honolulu. Many bicyclists use the bike lanes on Kalaniana'ole Hwy. It is best for bicyclists when large vehicles such as trucks with semi-trailers use either the middle or left lane.

In addition, Kalaniana'ole Hwy. has a couple of roads that feed into the highway just after a curve. Drivers coming out of these roads are unable to see past the curve, so again it is best for large trucks and buses to use either the middle lane or left lane in order to avoid possibly rear-ending other vehicles pulling onto the highway.

For several years, I have personally asked truck drivers to use either the middle or left lanes. If the left lane is prohibited, drivers may end up using the right lane more often.

While I understand prohibiting trucks from travelling in the left lane on high-speed roadways such as the freeway may have its benefits, I am concerned that prohibiting such travel on roadways such as Kalaniana'ole Hwy. may create other problems.

Please consider amending the bill to take into consideration these comments.

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**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB346 on Mar 3, 2015 14:45PM\*  
**Date:** Friday, February 27, 2015 12:00:20 PM

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**SB346**

Submitted on: 2/27/2015

Testimony for TRA on Mar 3, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**Cc:** [makahababy@aol.com](mailto:makahababy@aol.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB346 on Mar 3, 2015 14:45PM  
**Date:** Friday, February 27, 2015 11:19:56 PM

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**SB346**

Submitted on: 2/27/2015

Testimony for TRA on Mar 3, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sara Perry	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I fully support the intent of this Bill, and would like to add that as a Waianae resident, this is especially relevant to our only access point on and off the Leeward Coast. Large trucks are constantly on our roads, going to and from PVT landfill, delivering goods, and operating out of their home bases. The roads are currently much too narrow and safety of other drivers is a huge issue. Rep. Tupola has championed our safety by writing letters to many trucking companies on this coast to please stick to the right lanes, but without this being law, it has no teeth and is only a suggestion. I would also like to address the speed limit for trucks. I constantly see large, loaded trucks speeding past me from Campbell park towards Honolulu, going speeds in excess of 65 MPH. I know not all drivers are driving this unsafely, however, for those who are, the time is now to address this problem. Please cap their speeds and keep them in the right hand lanes, so that other drivers don't have to dodge them and be responsible for the crazy driving habits of a few truckers. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. Sara E. Perry Waianae, Hawaii

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**SB346**

Submitted on: 2/28/2015

Testimony for TRA on Mar 3, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Anthony Orozco	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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