

Dons Trucking LLC
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Statement of **Don Tavares**
Owner of Dons Trucking LLC
Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND ENERGY

March 15, 2017 at 1:15 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 225

In consideration of
H.B. 113, HD1
RELATING TO HIGHWAYS.

Good afternoon Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee.

My name is Don Tavares and I would like to voice my **strong support** for House Bill 113, which exempts vehicles transporting asphalt or other high temperature loads from the requirement that their loads be covered.

As an owner of a local trucking company, I know firsthand the safety and health hazards of closely dealing with hot asphalt. Besides the risk in handling material that is 400 degrees, asphalt in its molten state generates toxic fumes and exposure to it can pose both acute and serious long-term consequences. Putting a cover or tarp over extremely hot asphalt is counterintuitive as it will melt the material and produce other toxic fumes into the air as well, so exemption to this requirement is necessary.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety & Health Administration, effects of exposure to asphalt fumes include headache, skin rash, fatigue, reduced appetite, throat and eye irritation, cough, and cancer. There are numerous studies that show asphalt workers are at high risk of lung, stomach, and skin cancers.

Would you want your employees to be only inches away from the steaming hot 400-degree asphalt just to try to put a tarp over that will melt anyway?

Vehicles carrying agricultural produce and vehicles carrying dirt, sand, or gravel do not have to cover their load (if they meet certain conditions). There are other exemptions in place already, so why not the one that aims to protect our workers? It seems like a common sense safe workplace policy to me.

California, one of the most environmentally friendly state, has already passed the same law. Colorado is another. It is time Hawaii does the same and sets an example for other states to follow.