

**HB-1758-HD-1**

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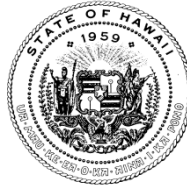
Testimony for CPC on 2/12/2018 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b>  | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lana Ululani Robbins |                     | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments:

Thank you to the Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce for the opportunity to testify in opposition to HB 1758. The State of Hawai'i Department of Transportation testified in opposition.

Doubling the inspection fee for the two-year motor vehicle inspection safety checks does not make vehicles safer. I oppose this fee to be used to pay for the rail. Mahalo.



Testimony by:

JADE T. BUTAY  
INTERIM DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors  
ROY CATALANI  
ROSS M. HIGASHI  
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IN REPLY REFER TO:

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
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February 12, 2018  
2:00 p.m.  
State Capitol, Room 329

**H.B. 1758, H.D. 1**  
**RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLE INSPECTIONS**

House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

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The Department of Transportation opposes H.B. 1758, H.D.1 relating to motor vehicle inspections. The purpose of the bill is to allow motor vehicles with a model year that is six years of age or less to be inspected every two years rather than every year.

We offer the following discussion on Section 1 of the bill regarding the effectiveness of Periodic Motor Vehicle Inspection (PMVI). In 1988, Congress required the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to study state inspection programs to determine whether they improve highway safety. NHTSA concluded that periodic motor vehicle inspection programs (PMVI) reduce the number of poorly maintained vehicles on the highways, but that available data did not conclusively demonstrate that PMVI programs significantly reduced crash rates. Data availability is poor because the data needed to evaluate the relationship of an inspection program with crashes is generally not collected. In July 1990, the GAO reviewed the NHTSA report and concluded that NHTSA accurately concluded that PMVI reduces the number of poorly maintained vehicles on the roads. Thus, agencies other than the states with inspection programs agree that inspection programs improve the mechanical condition of vehicles.

Statewide, there are a total of 546 inspection stations; Honolulu – 301, Hawaii County – 125, Maui County – 71, and Kauai County – 49. The hours available for inspections has remained constant for many years. The hours of operation required in the 2009 version of the administrative rules 19-133.2 is eight hours each day, five days a week between the hours of 6:00 AM and 6:00 PM. This requirement has not changed. The administrative rules are currently being updated and have the exact same requirements.

Presently the cost for an inspection of a motor vehicle is \$19.19, plus tax and \$13.24, plus tax for a motorcycle. Of the cost for an inspection, \$1.70 is allocated for the administration and enforcement of the PMVI program and \$1.69 is allocated to the “electronic form contractor” for PMVI program costs.

Regarding the likelihood of defects, although new vehicles are unlikely to experience major mechanical defects during the first two years after purchase, other defects, which are discovered during an inspection, do occur. These defects include head lamps, signal lamps, and brake lamps, expired registration and insurance cards, worn-out brakes, tires, and windshield wipers, modified suspension, window tint, and cracked windshields. The table below shows the number of defects by two six-year groups of vehicle model years.

| TINT | Warning LMP | WIPERS | HEAD LAMP | TAIL LMP | SIGNAL LMP | TIRE | STOP LAMP | INSURANCE | OTHER LMP | REG ISTRATION | Total | Model Year |
|------|-------------|--------|-----------|----------|------------|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------------|-------|------------|
| 14   | 12          | 11     | 13        | 14       | 13         | 14   | 14        | 15        | 13        | 16            | 149   | 2006       |
| 14   | 13          | 13     | 13        | 13       | 13         | 13   | 14        | 15        | 14        | 16            | 151   | 2007       |
| 13   | 12          | 12     | 11        | 13       | 11         | 15   | 13        | 15        | 14        | 16            | 145   | 2008       |
| 12   | 9           | 10     | 11        | 12       | 10         | 14   | 15        | 15        | 14        | 14            | 136   | 2009       |
| 13   | 10          | 12     | 13        | 12       | 10         | 15   | 12        | 13        | 11        | 15            | 136   | 2010       |
| 13   | 10          | 10     | 11        | 12       | 11         | 13   | 14        | 14        | 13        | 16            | 137   | 2011       |
| 79   | 66          | 68     | 72        | 76       | 68         | 84   | 82        | 87        | 79        | 93            | 854   | Total      |
| 13   | 11          | 10     | 10        | 9        | 9          | 13   | 13        | 13        | 12        | 16            | 129   | 2012       |
| 13   | 9           | 10     | 10        | 9        | 12         | 13   | 13        | 16        | 13        | 16            | 134   | 2013       |
| 15   | 10          | 10     | 8         | 13       | 10         | 13   | 13        | 18        | 12        | 16            | 138   | 2014       |
| 13   | 4           | 7      | 8         | 10       | 7          | 13   | 11        | 13        | 8         | 15            | 109   | 2015       |
| 11   | 4           | 2      | 4         | 4        | 10         | 4    | 6         | 12        | 6         | 16            | 79    | 2016       |
| 4    | 6           |        | 1         | 3        | 4          | 2    | 5         | 7         | 5         | 15            | 52    | 2017       |
| 69   | 44          | 39     | 41        | 48       | 52         | 58   | 61        | 79        | 56        | 94            | 641   | Total      |

Registration and insurance have no bearing on the mechanical condition of a vehicle. However, checking the registration helps to identify the vehicle and ensure that fees are paid. Checking insurance is a requirement of 286-26(i), HRS.

Should the state adopt the provisions of this bill that allow motor vehicles with model years of six years of age or less, instead of the current annual inspection, registered owners of the vehicles would not have discovered the listed defects for 2 years.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.