

TESTIMONY OF  
JAMES P. GRIFFIN, Ph.D.  
CHAIR, PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
STATE OF HAWAII

TO THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE

March 24, 2021  
2:00 p.m.

Chair Johanson and Members of the Committee:

**MEASURE:** S.B. No. 766

**TITLE:** RELATING TO MOTOR CARRIER PENALTIES.

**DESCRIPTION:** Allows a penalty of up to \$5,000 for the fourth or subsequent violations of the motor carrier law within one calendar year.

**POSITION:**

The Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) supports this measure and offers the following comments for consideration.

**COMMENTS:**

The Commission supports this measure, which would grant the Commission with additional flexibility in determining penalties for violations by regulated motor carriers. The Commission finds that, in certain instances, the civil penalty’s statutory limit of \$1,000 does not sufficiently encourage repeat violators to comply with the provisions of Chapter 271, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and lawful Commission orders.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



March 24, 2021

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE  
ON SB 766 RELATING TO MOTOR CARRIER PENALTIES**

Aloha Chair Johanson, and committee members. I am Gareth Sakakida Managing Director of the Hawaii Transportation Association (HTA) with over 375 members involved with the commercial ground transportation industry.

HTA supports this bill. The trucking and tour vehicle industries have long contended with fly by night operators who seek to skirt the requirements of motor carrier operations which the Public Utilities Commission enforces.

The PUC's abilities need to be strengthened and increased penalties are one way of achieving this.

Mahalo.



**SB-766**

Submitted on: 3/24/2021 6:38:35 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/24/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
TAYLOR YOSHITOMI-JONES	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I fully support this measure that will assist in keeping our roads and streets safe while pressuring the community to register legally with proper state departments like the Public Utilities Commission, Department of Commerce & Consumer Affairs, and register Compliance.

Mahalo,

Taylor Yoshitomi-Jones