

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

TO THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE

February 16, 2022  
2:00 p.m.

Chair Johanson and Members of the Committee:

**MEASURE:** H.B. No. 2230

**TITLE:** RELATING TO MOTOR CARRIERS.

**DESCRIPTION:** Specifies that the fee for a common or contract carrier by motor vehicle that is a tour bus operator is 2.5 per cent of the tour bus operator's gross revenues or \$20, whichever is greater.

**POSITION:**

The Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") offers the following comments for consideration.

**COMMENTS:**

The Commission notes that this measure would increase annual fees for regulated motor carriers that are defined as tour buses. Should this measure pass, the Commission will ensure that regulated motor carriers comply with its provisions.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



February 16, 2022

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
CONSUMER PROTECTION  
ON HB 2230 RELATING TO MOTOR CARRIERS**

Aloha Chair Johanson, and committee members. I am Gareth Sakakida Managing Director of the Hawaii Transportation Association (HTA) with over 350 members involved with the commercial ground transportation industry.

HTA opposes this bill.

The last time the PUC fee was increased was in 1994 when a doubling of the fee was supported by the Public Utilities Commission. Motor carriers saw no reason for this as there was no detectable enforcement of illegal carriers.

After a time HTA relented on the bill when the Chair committed to stepping up said enforcement. Some level of it eventually came after several years.

Increasing the fee ten fold for no apparent reason on an industry which was essentially out of business for the greater part of the last two years is not reasonable.

Mahalo.