

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

TO THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
TRANSPORTATION

March 23, 2022  
11:05 a.m.

Chair Aquino and Members of the Committee:

**MEASURE:** H.C.R. No. 29 / H.R. 25

**TITLE:** ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK WITH STAKEHOLDERS TO DEVELOP A HOLISTIC MANAGEMENT PLAN THAT WILL ENSURE HANA HIGHWAY IS PROPERLY MAINTAINED AND IS SAFE FOR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS.

**POSITION:**

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

**COMMENTS:**

The Commission appreciates the intent of these resolutions to ensure that Hana Highway is properly maintained and is safe for residents and visitors.

The Commission, through its authority in Chapter 271, HRS, investigates complaints surrounding motor carriers, enforces regulations, and assesses penalties as appropriate. The Commission is planning a robust enforcement presence as tourism activity is expected to increase towards pre-pandemic levels this summer.

The Commission has recently partnered with DLNR to ensure that only licensed motor carriers are able to operate at Waianapanapa State Park. This partnership has been successful in reducing the number of unlicensed vehicles operating in the area. The Commission will continue to work with DLNR, other agencies, and local communities to ensure that motor carrier law is properly enforced.

The Commission notes that it is willing to cooperate with the Department of Transportation, through the Commission's Maui District Representative, to assist in developing solutions for management of Hana Highway.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.