

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

TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

April 5, 2022
2:00 p.m.

Chair Nakashima and Members of the Committee:

MEASURE: H.C.R. No. 103 / H.R. 99

TITLE: URGING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO INCREASE FINES, FEES, AND ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS REGARDING TOUR BUS OPERATORS WHO VIOLATE STATE LAW.

POSITION:

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

COMMENTS:

The Commission appreciates the intent of these resolutions to ensure that tour bus operators do not repeatedly violate state law.

The Commission investigates complaints surrounding motor carriers, enforces regulations, and assesses penalties as appropriate. The Commission notes that last year, the Legislature passed Act 104 (2021), which increased the maximum penalties for motor carriers that violated motor carrier law four or more times within a calendar year.

The Commission notes that field investigations by our enforcement officers have been limited during certain periods of the pandemic. The Commission is planning a robust enforcement presence as tourism activity is expected to increase towards pre-pandemic levels this summer.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.