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**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
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IN REPLY REFER TO:

February 2, 2023  
3:00 P.M.  
State Capitol Conference Rm 224 & Videoconference

**S.B. 1410**  
**RELATING TO TRUCK BEDS**

Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** S.B.1410 which repeals several exemptions from the prohibition on operating a pickup truck with a passenger seated in the bed or load—carrying area, including the exemption that allows passengers over 12 years of age to ride in the bed or load—carrying area.

University of Hawaii's Winter 2022 Seat Belt report stated there were a total of 14,362 trucks observed throughout the entire daytime Seat Belt study. Of the 14,362 trucks observed state-wide, 138 trucks approximately 1 percent contained occupants in the truck bed. Of the 138 trucks observed with occupants in the truck bed, 31 contained children under the age of 12.

According to Fatal Analysis Reporting System, from 2019 to 2022, there were two roadway crashes that resulted in one fatality and two injured due to the victims riding in the bed of a truck.

Truck beds are not designed to safely transport occupants. This measure would encourage more passengers to ride in the appropriate seating positions within a vehicle.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.