

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



TESTIMONY BY:
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

Deputy Directors
Nā Hope Luna Ho'okele
DREANALEE K. KALILI
TAMMY L. LEE
ROBIN K. SHISHIDO

STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | KA 'OIHANA ALAKAU
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

February 13, 2024
2:05 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 329

H.B. 1578, H.D. 1
RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION

House Committee on Transportation

The Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) **supports** H.B. 1578, H.D. 1, which permits a shipping container chassis that holds a valid out-of-state certificate of vehicle registration to obtain a certificate of safety inspection and makes an out-of-state registration for a shipping container chassis valid in the State until its expiration in the other state for one year after a safety inspection.

Shipping container chassis are a critical part in moving container cargo out of ports and to final destinations. Due to the nature of intermodal equipment, shipping container chassis are frequently moved from port to port - and state to state. Most states in the United States recognize the intermodal and interstate nature of shipping container chassis and recognizes out-of-state license plates and registrations.

This bill supports efficient cargo operations, and the efficiency may reduce the costs of transporting goods.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Testimony of Matson Navigation Company, Inc.
Support of HB1578, HD1
Before the Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce
February 13, 2024

Dear Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and Members of the Committee:

Matson Navigation Company, Inc. (Matson) strongly supports HB1578, HD1, which allows shipping container chassis with out-of-state certificates of vehicle registration to obtain a certificate of safety inspection and allows for the out-of-state registration to be valid in the State of Hawaii for one year after the vehicle safety inspection is completed.

As an island state, Hawaii is very dependent upon our commercial harbors to ensure the continued and unimpeded flow of cargo in and out of our State. It is estimated that over 90 percent Hawaii's imported goods pass through our commercial harbors, including consumer goods, motor vehicles, construction materials, and fuel. Given the critical role of our commercial harbors, it is imperative that the State support dependable and efficient cargo transportation and handling to service our residents and businesses.

Shipping container chassis (pictured below) are a vital part of the flow of commerce. These chassis ensure that containers and the goods inside can be delivered to our stores. Due to the nature of intermodal equipment, shipping container chassis are frequently moved from port to port. Almost every other state in the United States recognizes the intermodal, interstate nature of shipping container chassis and recognizes out-of-state license plates and registrations. Allowing out-of-state registered shipping container chassis to obtain a safety check in Hawaii will ensure the safety and roadworthiness of shipping container chassis and ensure the safe and efficient flow of commerce through out our State while requiring the shipping container chassis to be registered in Hawaii within a reasonable time.



Thank you for considering our testimony in support.



**TESTIMONY OF TINA YAMAKI, PRESIDENT
RETAIL MERCHANTS OF HAWAII
February 13, 2024
HB 1578 HD1 RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION**

Good afternoon, Chair Nakashima and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce. I am Tina Yamaki, President of the Retail Merchants of Hawaii and I appreciate this opportunity to testify.

The Retail Merchants of Hawaii was founded in 1901 and is a statewide, not for profit trade organization committed to supporting the growth and development of the retail industry in Hawaii. Our membership includes small mom & pop stores, large box stores, resellers, luxury retail, department stores, shopping malls, on-line sellers, local, national, and international retailers, chains, and everyone in between.

We SUPPORT HB 1578 HD1. This bill permits a shipping container chassis that holds a valid out-of-state certificate of vehicle registration to obtain a certificate of safety inspection; makes an out-of-state registration for a shipping container chassis valid in the State until its expiration in the other state or for one year after a vehicle safety inspection; and is effective on 7/1/3000.

It is our understanding that almost every other state in the United States recognizes the intermodal, interstate nature of shipping container chassis and recognizes out-of-state license plates and registrations. Allowing out-of-state registered shipping container chassis to obtain a safety check in Hawaii will ensure the safety and roadworthiness of shipping container chassis and ensure the safe and efficient flow of commerce throughout our State while requiring the shipping container chassis to be registered in Hawaii within a reasonable time.

As we are all aware, Hawaii is very dependent upon shipping to ensure the continued and unimpeded flow of cargo in and out of our State. It is estimated that over 90 percent of Hawaii's imported goods pass through our commercial harbors, including consumer goods, motor vehicles, construction materials, and fuel. Given the critical role of our commercial harbors, it is imperative that the State support dependable and efficient cargo transportation and handling to service our residents and businesses.

Shipping container chassis (pictured below) are a vital part of the flow of commerce. These chassis ensure that containers and the goods inside can be delivered to our stores. Due to the nature of intermodal equipment, shipping container chassis are frequently moved from port to port.



We respectfully urge you to pass this bill.

Mahalo again for this opportunity to testify.



WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

February 13, 2024

Representative Mark Nakashima, Chair
Representative Jackson Sayama, Vice Chair
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

RE: House Bill 1578 Proposed H.D. 1 – RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION
Hearing date: February 13, 2024, 2:05 p.m.

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of Young Brothers, LLC (“YB”) offering **STRONG SUPPORT** for House Bill 1578 Proposed H.D. 1 – Relating to Transportation.

YB is a common carrier by water, transporting property by tug and barge between the islands of O’ahu, Hawai’i, Kaua’i, Maui, Moloka’i, and Lāna’i. YB is currently the only water carrier authorized to transport property under Chapter 271G, Hawaii Revised Statutes (“HRS”) (i.e., the Hawaii Water Carrier Act), subject to the regulatory authority of the Public Utilities Commission of the State of Hawaii (“PUC”). Since 1900, customers across Hawaii have relied on YB’s frequent, regular, and universal sailings to serve as the bridge that connects all communities in this island-state.

The proposed H.D. 1 for this measure would allow certain shipping container chassis with out-of-state certificates of registration to obtain a local certificate of safety inspection and allows for the out-of-state registration to be valid in the State of Hawaii for one year after the vehicle safety inspection is completed.

Shipping container chassis are frequently used to transport shipping containers into, out of, and around the State of Hawai’i. Often, these chassis come from and are registered in other states. This measure recognizes the interstate nature of these chassis and establishes reasonable registration requirements that still preserve the safety and roadworthiness of such chassis through the local safety inspection process. Furthermore, it is YB’s understanding that most other states already recognize out-of-state license plates and registrations for such chassis.

For the reasons stated above, YB offers **STRONG SUPPORT** for this measure.

Thank you for your service to the State of Hawaii, and for the opportunity to testify offering comments on this measure.

Sincerely,

Kris Nakagawa
Vice President, External and Legal Affairs

HAWAII HARBORS USERS GROUP

Support of HB1578, HD1

Before the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

February 13, 2024

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Harbor Users Group (HHUG) is a non-profit maritime transportation industry group comprised of key commercial harbor users statewide. Members of HHUG play a vital role in our state's economic development and sustainability, as well as cargo operations and tourism. The safe and efficient operations of Hawaii harbors are critical to connecting Hawaii's most remote and isolated communities to the rest of the state and, indeed, the world.

We are writing in support of HB1578, HD1, which allows shipping container chassis with out-of-state certificates of vehicle registration to obtain a certificate of safety inspection and allows for the out-of-state registration to be valid in the State of Hawaii for one year after the vehicle safety inspection is completed.

We believe that allowing out-of-state registered shipping container chassis to obtain a safety check in Hawaii will ensure the safety and roadworthiness of shipping container chassis and ensure the safe and efficient flow of commerce throughout our State while requiring the shipping container chassis to be registered in Hawaii within a reasonable time.

Hawaii's economy, and virtually every aspect of life in our islands, is dependent upon our commercial harbors to ensure the continued and unimpeded flow of cargo. The vast majority of Hawaii's imported goods pass through our commercial harbors, including consumer goods, motor vehicles, construction materials, and fuel. Given the critical role of our commercial harbors, it is imperative that the state support dependable and efficient cargo transportation and handling to service our residents and businesses.

Thank you for considering our testimony in support of this measure.