

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

LATE



TESTIMONY BY:
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KA LUNA HO'OKELE

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

February 14, 2024
3:05 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 224

S.B. 2943
RELATED TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts
Senate Committee on Labor and Technology

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** S.B. 2943, which establishes a working group within the Department of Transportation to address the workforce shortage of CDL drivers in the State.

The DOT recognizes the important role individuals who possess a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) have in a multitude of industries across the State and that the current shortage of CDL drivers has huge impacts, especially in transporting students to and from school.

The DOT believes that the members of the working group outlined in the bill can work together collectively to address ways to increase awareness of the ground transportation industry and increase the CDL workforce.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/14/2024

Time: 03:05 PM

Location: CR 224 & Videoconference

Committee: Senate Transportation and
Culture and the Arts

Senate Labor and Technology

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 2943 RELATING TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.

Purpose of Bill: Establishes a working group within the Department of Transportation to address the workforce shortage of CDL drivers in the State. Requires a report to the Legislature.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) respectfully provides comments on SB 2943, which establishes a working group within the Department of Transportation to address the workforce shortage of drivers with a valid Commercial Driver's License (CDL).

The Department appreciates the Legislature's efforts to address workforce shortages and appreciates being included in the conversation. As it has been well documented, the shortage in bus drivers has impacted our ability to transport our students to and from school. Thus, we know how important it is to build the pool of CDL drivers, especially CDL drivers certified to drive school buses (which requires additional certifications). Identifying strategies to recruit and retain qualified CDL drivers will not only fill current vacancies but will also create a stable workforce pipeline. While our students do not meet the age requirements to obtain a CDL learner's permit to participate in training, the Department understands that it is important for the workforce pipeline that we prepare our students through exposure to the career field and through developing the skills necessary for them to succeed as CDL drivers, including the employability skills and an understanding of supply chain and logistics and customer service. Regardless of the outcome of this measure, the Department is committed to working with the Department of Transportation and other stakeholders in finding a solution to address this critical need.

The Department defers to the Department of Transportation with regards to the implementation of this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2943.



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TO: Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts, and Committee on Labor and Technology

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: February 14, 2024
TIME: 3:05pm
PLACE: 224

RE: SB2943 Relating to Transportation

Position: Support

The Hawaii Food Industry Association is comprised of two hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers, manufacturers and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees,

HFIA is in support of this measure. Like so many other critical services, Hawaii's food systems rely on vehicle transport to move goods around the state. Ensuring that our transportation systems are safe, reliable, and efficient is vital for our food systems.

Nationwide we are experiencing a shortage of CDL drivers and Hawaii is no exception. Lack of CDL drivers can have a wide range of negative impacts on our food systems and we urge the state to take steps to address this problem. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2943

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:53:35 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/14/2024 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jowell Rivera	Testifying for Hawaii Logistic Services	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in total support of this bill. This is a critical bill to pass as our life blood in Hawaii depends on it. Nothing in Hawaii moves without transportation. We have a sever lack of drivers and the security for food, medical, law enfocement, energy and the like are dependent on this.

As a board member of the Hawaii Transportaiton Assoc. and the Hawaii V.P. of the American Truckers Assoc. I know that we are 65K drivers short nation wide and will need 1.1 million drivers to fill position over the next 10 years accross the country and that includes Hawaii. Home Land Security considers this a threat to national security.

This bill would allow our young men and women to have a skill for life that pays \$60, \$80 or even a \$100k plus per year with great benefits. they would NOT need to leave Hawaii and we would not lose as many of our young talent to other states and cities.

One caveat to this. Please add heavy duty truck mechanics to this bill as we are also short this skill in Hawaii.

As an island state, this bill makes total sense.

Respectfully,

Jowell
Rivera

Services

President
Hawaii Logistic