

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

March 27, 2024  
3:30 p.m.  
State Capitol, RM 308

**S.B. 3220, S.D. 2, H.D. 1**  
**RELATING TO MOTOR CARRIERS**

House Committee on Finance

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The Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) **supports the intent of S.B. 3220, S.D.2, H.D. 1**, which transfers the jurisdiction of enforcement of the Motor Carrier Law from Public Utilities Commission to the Department of Transportation. Makes conforming amendments. Appropriates funds.

The HDOT could assist on the enforcement side as we have our Motor Carrier Safety Officers in the field. We would ask for a percentage of the fees paid to Public Utilities Commission to offset the cost of increasing personnel and personnel compensation due to the increased duties, and we request that HDOT keep the fines that are collected in enforcement.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

TESTIMONY OF  
LEODOLOFF R. ASUNCION, JR.  
CHAIR, PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
STATE OF HAWAII

TO THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
FINANCE

March 27, 2024  
3:30 p.m.

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committees:

**MEASURE:** S.B. No. 3220, SD2 HD1

**TITLE:** RELATING TO MOTOR CARRIERS.

**DESCRIPTION:** Transfers the jurisdiction of enforcement of the Motor Carrier Law from the Public Utilities Commission to the Department of Transportation. Makes conforming amendments. Appropriates funds. Effective 1/1/2050. (HD1)

**POSITION:**

The Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) supports this measure and offers the following comments for consideration.

**COMMENTS:**

The Commission appreciates the intent of this measure to transfer the authority of enforcement of Chapter 271, Hawaii Revised Statutes (“HRS”), or the Motor Carrier Law, to the Department of Transportation (“DoT”).

Moreover, the Commission appreciates the amendments made by previous Senate and House Committees to the original measure to transfer only the enforcement of the Motor Carrier Law. This is appropriate given that DoT has a much larger number of enforcement officers than the Commission, and, importantly, have a greater presence throughout the State. This will allow for better and more consistent enforcement of motor carriers statewide.

Regarding motor carrier applications, annual financial reporting, and tariff oversight, the Commission already has the systems and process to continue to fulfill its statutory obligation while ensuring that motor carriers adhere to mandatory administrative requirements. Because of the added responsibilities to DoT for enforcement, the Commission is supportive of adding revenue generation for DoT either through retention of funds collected from issuance of citations and/or a percentage of motor carrier fees collected by the Commission.

The Commission is hopeful that this proposal will address the Legislature's concerns as well as advocates and stakeholders who are directly impacted by the Motor Carrier Law.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.