

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
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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 13, 2025
10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, RM 430

H.B. 1444
RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY INSPECTIONS

House Committee on Transportation

The Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) **opposes** H.B. 1444, which lengthens the time period in which certain vehicles must have a safety inspection.

The HDOT opposes this bill as our Periodic Motor Vehicle Inspection for the number of vehicles that failed show that even newer vehicles, 2 years old, had a failure rate averaging 15 percent (see below table for additional years). This demonstrates the need to have safety inspections annually, they prevent equipment failure that may result in a crash, or stalled vehicles that may cause delays for roadway users. Every minute that a lane remains blocked during peak travel times results in 4 minutes of delay, during and even well after the lane is cleared.

Test Year	Model Year	Vehicle Age	Total Tests	Total Failed	Fail Percentage
2024	2019	5	69506	11061	15.91
2024	2020	4	58270	9912	17.01
2024	2021	3	66730	12191	18.27
2024	2022	2	71135	11940	16.78
2023	2018	5	69147	10995	15.9
2023	2019	4	76016	11799	15.52
2023	2020	3	67185	10603	15.78
2023	2021	2	66266	10833	16.35
2022	2017	5	71859	11790	16.41
2022	2018	4	74865	12352	16.5
2022	2019	3	85682	13191	15.4
2022	2020	2	70867	9896	13.96
2021	2016	5	77519	13670	17.63
2021	2017	4	75719	13961	18.44
2021	2018	3	80102	15941	19.9
2021	2019	2	85546	13689	16
2020	2015	5	64993	8579	13.2
2020	2016	4	72687	10277	14.14
2020	2017	3	72365	11459	15.84
2020	2018	2	71657	10272	14.33
2019	2014	5	68463	10559	15.42

2019	2015	4	76234	11983	15.72
2019	2016	3	88121	15636	17.74
2019	2017	2	88497	13881	15.69
2018	2013	5	65145	10554	16.2
2018	2014	4	71712	11975	16.7
2018	2015	3	82525	14905	18.06
2018	2016	2	97194	15354	15.8
2017	2012	5	55827	9610	17.21
2017	2013	4	68866	12152	17.65
2017	2014	3	78617	15333	19.5
2017	2015	2	89216	15388	17.25
2016	2011	5	51711	8565	16.56
2016	2012	4	58002	10310	17.78
2016	2013	3	73558	14073	19.13
2016	2014	2	84646	14877	17.58
2015	2010	5	48834	8160	16.71
2015	2011	4	53177	9156	17.22
2015	2012	3	60886	11865	19.49
2015	2013	2	81686	14254	17.45
2014	2009	5	43637	7764	17.79
2014	2010	4	50613	8767	17.32
2014	2011	3	57548	11086	19.26
2014	2012	2	66694	12449	18.67
2013	2008	5	9624	1676	17.41
2013	2009	4	6393	1081	16.91
2013	2010	3	7973	1342	16.83
2013	2011	2	9189	1519	16.53

Additionally, lengthening the duration between odometer readings and lengthening the time period when the first odometer reading is taken would create difficulties in implementing the per-mile Road Usage Charge (RUC) program in Hawaii which is now tied to the annual safety check.

ACT 222 established a RUC beginning with electric vehicles with the eventual inclusion of all passenger vehicles and light duty trucks. To calculate the RUC, the mileage traveled for this RUC program will be collected by the odometer readings taken under the existing annual safety inspection process. At the time of payment, the mileage accumulated, and the cost of the driver's RUC will be much greater on a 24 months or 3 year cycle rather than the existing annual payment cycle.

If time between inspections were extended, the public will be required to pay on estimated charges every other year, or we would need to adjust to either electronic tracking or self-reporting requirements. Both would increase the cost of collection for the program.

Therefore, we recommend that the inspection periods remain unchanged from the current time periods and durations.

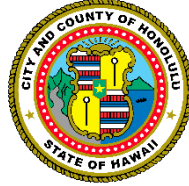
Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA LAWELawe KUPA
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

ADMINISTRATION

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HOPE PO'O

February 12, 2025

The Honorable Darius K. Kila, Chair
The Honorable Tina Nakada Grandinetti, Vice Chair
and Members of the House Committee on Transportation
State Capitol, Conference Room 430
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Kila, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and Members of the House Committee on Transportation,

SUBJECT: H.B. No. 1444 - Relating To Motor Vehicles
HEARING: Thursday, February 13, 2025, 10:00 a.m.

The City and County of Honolulu, Department of Customer Services (CSD), Division of Motor Vehicle Registration (DMV), respectfully offers the following comments to H.B. No. 1444, which would require motor vehicle safety inspections to be conducted every two years rather than annually.

Hawaii does not have a statewide Department of Motor Vehicles. Pursuant to Section 6-402 of the Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu, CSD DMV administers the motor vehicle registration program for the island of O'ahu.

Under existing regulations, all vehicles in Hawaii are required to have a valid Registration, Certificate of Title, and State of Hawaii Safety Inspection Certificate. A valid safety inspection is mandatory for annual vehicle registration renewals. Vehicle owners must present a current safety inspection certificate to complete the registration renewal process.

CSD DMV appreciates the opportunity to express our concerns regarding the potential impacts of H.B. No. 1444 on our operations for your committee's consideration:

1. **Implementation Timeline:** CSD DMV will require a reasonable and adequate amount of time to properly implement the proposed legislation. We have significant concerns regarding the proposed legislation taking effect upon its approval.
2. **Administrative and Technical Adjustments:** Changes to the safety inspection requirements would necessitate updates to CSD DMV administrative processes, including modifications to forms, databases and pertinent information technology systems, staff training and public communication materials. CSD DMV requires additional time to research and assess implementation requirements.
3. **Public Communication:** Clear and timely communication to the public regarding any changes to the safety inspection requirements will be essential to ensure compliance and avoid confusion.
4. **Coordination with Inspection Stations:** CSD DMV will be required to collaborate closely with authorized inspection stations to align procedures and ensure proper implementation of any new requirements.
5. **Amending Existing Contracts:** The Department of Transportation would be required to review and potentially amend its contract with vendors that currently provide technology (e.g., hardware, software) and materials (e.g., emblems, forms) for the Safety Inspection program.

CSD DMV acknowledges the intent of H.B. No. 1444 and is prepared to adapt our processes and systems accordingly. CSD DMV emphasizes the importance of maintaining clear communication with the public and relevant stakeholders to ensure a seamless transition and continued compliance with vehicle registration requirements.

When establishing implementation requirements and setting an effective date, CSD DMV respectfully requests the Committee consider the operational impacts to CSD DMV outlined above.

Additionally, the proposed legislation may have unintended consequences on State and county road usage charge programs. The Hawaii Road Usage Charge (HiRUC) program begins on July 1, 2025 for all drivers of electric vehicles (EVs). On their first registration notice sent after July 1, 2025, EV drivers will be given a choice of paying a flat road usage charge (RUC) of \$50 or a per-mile RUC, calculated based on

the number of miles driven **between vehicle safety inspections**. This choice will be permitted until June 30, 2028, at which time all EVs will pay a per-mile state RUC. There is also proposed legislation (H.B. No. 1161 and S.B. No. 1480) which authorizes counties to establish a county mileage-based RUC for EVs beginning July 1, 2028. Therefore, requiring motor vehicle safety inspections to be conducted every two years rather than annually will impact the ability of the HiRUC program and any future county RUC programs to calculate a per-mile RUC based on the number of miles driven between vehicle safety inspections on an annual basis.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments to H.B. No. 1444.

Sincerely,

Kimberly M. Hashiro
Director Designate

HB-1444

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 10:37:44 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/13/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frank Schultz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this initiative.

HB-1444

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 12:16:30 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/13/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Peggy Regentine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support having vehicle inspections every 2 years. It is an expense and often not convenient to find a location. Often you have to wait for this service. I support a 2 yr inspection with HB 1444.

HB-1444

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 12:18:56 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/13/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noela von Wiegandt	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha,

I support HB1444. This bill will help the citizens of Hawaii save money yearly. Most citizens have a hard time paying the Annual registration fee let alone the safety check fee.

Thank you.

Noela vonWiegandt

HB-1444

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 12:33:42 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/13/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheryl Rzonca	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support moving vehicle safety checks to every 2 years. In fact I support doing away with safety checks altogether.

HB-1444

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 12:36:30 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/13/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brett Kulbis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Kila and Committee Members,

My name is Brett Kulbis, I'm a 26yr Navy Veteran and Retired Civil Servant. I live in Ewa Beach.

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB-1444.

HB-1444 is a common-sense piece of legislation that will benefit vehicle owners across the islands. This sensible adjustment to the current motor vehicle safety inspection regime extending the inspection interval from one year to two years will provide needed relief to hardworking citizens while still ensuring road safety.

Respectfully, I STRONGLY encourage you to vote YES on HB-1444.

HB-1444

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 1:43:36 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/13/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Judy Ilar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

I support every 2 years of safety check. I work 2 jobs and it's tough to bring my vehicle for safety check every year. I already take my vehicle to its regular car service yearly. Maybe there's a way to exempt people who can show proof for yearly maintenance of our vehicle. For example, when we renew our registration, we can attach proof of insurance and also proof of car maintenance within the past 12 months prior to renewal of car registration for a safety check exemption. Reward those are responsible car owners. Also, please lower the car registration fees.

Thank you for this wonderful Bill.

Judy Ilar

HB-1444

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 1:50:29 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/13/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Crossland	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT this Bill. I urge all members of the Committee to **VOTE YES** on this Bill.

HB-1444

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 3:02:11 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/13/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cindy R Ajimine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Wow! Rarely do we see a bill that may save us money & time! I strongly SUPPORT this bill.

Other states do NOT have this requirement & wise, law abiding citizens comply & maintain their autos on their own accord. Annual is not needed. Please pass this bill!

Thank you to the Introducers!

HB-1444

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 4:06:11 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/13/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
R. L. Souza	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

A nonpartisan bill we can all agree on!

STRONG SUPPORT!

HB-1444

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 5:29:39 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/13/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JOHN L PANG	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hurray. Thank you for a bill that helps the people of Hawaii.

HB-1444

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:10:25 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/13/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Darian	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB1444, which would require motor vehicle safety inspections **twice a year** instead of annually. This proposal is unnecessary, costly, and does nothing to address the real transportation issues in Hawaii.

Hawaii drivers already pay some of the **highest vehicle registration fees in the nation--often \$400 or more per year**. Now, this bill proposes to **double the number of required safety inspections**, which, while only around \$20 per inspection, adds yet another cost and inconvenience to drivers for no valid reason. The **current annual inspection is more than sufficient** to ensure vehicles are roadworthy. Forcing residents to undergo inspections every six months is an excessive and unnecessary burden.

If lawmakers are truly concerned about road safety, they should **focus on fixing our roads rather than creating pointless additional inspections**. Hawaii's roads are riddled with potholes and deteriorating infrastructure, causing unnecessary wear and tear on our vehicles. **Where are our tax dollars going?** Instead of wasting time on bills like HB1444, efforts should be directed toward **road repairs, traffic congestion solutions, and reducing the outrageous cost of vehicle registration**.

HB1444 does not benefit Hawaii's residents--it only adds another layer of inconvenience and cost. I strongly urge you to **vote NO on HB1444** and focus on the **real issues** affecting Hawaii's transportation system.

HB-1444

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 9:31:35 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/13/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marissa Sugiura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I highly support this bill- Hawaii cars do not get to drive enough to need yearly "checks". The safety check should be nulled altogether but two years is a step in the right direction. California does not have a safety check and they have way faster speed limits, larger freeways, and way more vehicles.

It's a cash cow for safety shops and most of the safety check inspection locations have very slim hours for a regular 9-5 worker. The hours for inspections from Mililani to sunset beach are 80% open only Monday-Friday until 1 or 2pm. This leaves us a very small window to get a safety check and the ones that can accommodate a 9-5 are super crowded.

HB-1444

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 11:34:28 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/13/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kevin Mulkern	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support 1444 HB

Make our lives a little easier

Kevin Mulkern

808 396 6595

HB-1444

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 6:15:34 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/13/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dalene McCormick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii residence are already burdened with just getting by, working multiple jobs to survive. Plus the cost of living is already absurd. I see no risk to stretching the safety to an every other year requirement to reduce some of the burden we experience.

HB-1444

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 6:51:35 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/13/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Louella Vidinha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a licensed vehicle operator, I'm in strong support of every 2 years for a vehicle inspection. It's time consuming and frustrating to have it yearly. I've been in long wait times, to only have to get an additional fix or repair done, then wait and come back and have it inspected again, multiple times. But, once it's completed and passes inspection I don't want to go back again the next year. The current fix or maintenance should be good for at least two years or more. It's just so much trouble. We don't need any more costly, time consuming maintenance done yearly when at least 2 years should be enough.

I'm in STRONG, STRONG FAVOR of every 2 years ! Why do the military have this special pass ? And the locals don't ? It's not fair.

Louella Vidinha

Waipahu

HB-1444

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 7:02:50 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/13/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Clardean Lehano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. Thank you for supporting your average citizen

HB-1444

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 3:35:37 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/13/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
TERI SAVAIINAEA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Kila and Committee Members,

I support HB1444.

Mahalo,

Teri Kia Savaiinaea

District 45, Wai'anae resident

HB-1444

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 4:15:18 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/13/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barilyne Sakamoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hi,

My name is Barilyne Sakamoto I'm in support of this bill to have the Requires motor vehicle safety inspections to be conducted every two years rather than annually. This will allow the people to have less of a expense each year and it will allow gas stations who do this less of a hassle trying to keep up with all the people who need this done every year. There are less and less places who handle this motor vehicle safety inspections since they don't want to do the paperwork plus they don't make a lot of profit from this. So please pass this law.