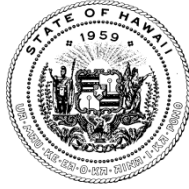


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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | KA 'OIHANA ALAKAU
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January 30, 2025
3:00 P.M.
State Capitol, Room 224

S.B. 95
RELATING TO VEHICLE SAFETY

Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** S.B. 95, which creates additional fines for any individual found operating a vehicle or moped without a current certificate of inspection.

The DOT supports this bill as this would promote operator awareness of proper vehicle and moped maintenance and adherence to general safety standards.

Current certification of inspections minimize the potential for worn or faulty components on a vehicle operating on the system to contribute to crash rates, thereby increasing safety for drivers, passengers, and vulnerable users of the system.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

JON N. IKENAGA
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January 28, 2025

Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts
Sen. Chris Lee, Chair
Sen. Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair
415 South Beretania Street, Conf. Rm. 224
State Capital
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Testimony in Opposition to S.B. 95
Hearing: January 30, 2025, 3:00 PM

Dear Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye and Committee Members:

The Office of the Public Defender strongly oppose S.B. 95 which would create additional fines for anyone found operating a vehicle or moped without a current certificate of inspection. S.B. 95 is unnecessary and strictly punitive in nature.

This bill presents a significant and unnecessary financial burden on individuals who may have forgotten to renew or did not have the funds to timely renew current certificate of inspection. Notably, there are already fines in place to address a lapsed or expired certificate of inspection. S.B. 95 seeks to impose additional fines. The hardworking people of this state are already walking on a tight rope financially and these additional fines are caustic and unnecessary.

S.B. 95's proposed additional and graduating fines are needlessly punitive in nature. The additional fine will not curb the behavior. It will not benefit the public. And it will not make the vehicle or operation of the vehicle safer. Instead, the additional fine will make a Hawaii resident's tight budget all the more strained.

This bill serves no one, especially not the everyday people of Hawaii. Instead of enacting legislation that penalizes residents, we should be looking for ways to support them—ensuring that laws accommodate the realities of life rather than making life more difficult. S.B. 95 places an unnecessary strain on Hawaii residents. Please stand with the working families of this state and reject this proposal.

Thank you for taking these comments into consideration.

Sincerely,
/s/ Taryn Tomasa
Deputy Public Defender

SB-95

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 4:20:07 PM

Testimony for TCA on 1/30/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Manabo Sato	Testifying for Moped Doctors Inc	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Aloha Honored Committee members.

I am Manabo Sato, cofounder and Vice president of Moped Doctors Inc, a local moped sales and repair shop located in Honolulu since 2010. I am also chief safety inspector of PMVI station 1926 .We worked with the DOT to create the first moped safety program sound standards in 2016.

Moped opposes additional fines and penalties for those not keeping up with their certificates of safety. We believe stronger and more consistent traffic law enforcement would yield greater fruits then upping the ante on penalties . Basic enforcement enhancement should be considered BEFORE any rise in penalties and fines. There is no point in raising penalties if the enforcement isn't there to begin with before such fines are raised.

Mahalo