

TESTIMONY OF RANDY IWASE
CHAIR, PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
FINANCE

February 27, 2018
11:00 a.m.

MEASURE: H.B. No. 2684 HD1
TITLE: RELATING TO MOTOR CARRIERS.

Chair Luke and Members of the Committee:

DESCRIPTION:

Amends the fees and penalties for motor carriers. Requires that a percentage of the fees collected be used for expenditures relating to the enforcement of motor carrier laws, including but not limited to expenditures for enforcement personnel. (HB2684 HD1)

POSITION:

The Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") offers the following comments for consideration.

COMMENTS:

The Commission is uncertain as to the intent of this proposed legislation, but notes the Commission's compliance and enforcement efforts for motor carriers are not functionally separated from enforcement activities for other public utilities, such as electricity, water/sewer, gas, interisland shipping utilities. As a result, earmarking portions of fees collected under HRS 271-36 in the Commission's special fund, and designate those funds solely for enforcement of HRS Chapter 271 could cause administrative and fiscal challenges for the Commission.

If the intent of this bill is to increase the Commission's activities in enforcing motor carrier laws, there may be a need for additional enforcement personnel in which case the

Commission would request an increase in appropriations to enable additional personnel to be hired. For FY 2017, only 33% of the total revenues deposited in the Commission's special fund were appropriated to the Commission. The remaining 67% of the Commission's special fund revenues were allocated to other state agencies or to the general fund.

On the matter of reviewing the statutory level of penalties and fines, the Commission is supportive. The Commission is available to work the Committee members or staff to answer any questions regarding this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



February 27, 2018

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
ON HOUSE BILL 2684 HD1 RELATING TO MOTOR CARRIER**

Thank you Chair Luke and committee members. I am Gareth Sakakida Managing Director of the Hawaii Transportation Association (HTA) with about 400 members involved with the commercial ground transportation industry.

HTA believes this bill is intended to enable the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to enforce their laws over all motor carriers who are subject to chapter 271 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes. We applaud and support this measure.

We also support the PUC's request to increase their appropriations to enable additional enforcement personnel to be hired

Thank you.