JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

TESTIMONY BY:

EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
DREANALEE K. KALILI
TAMMY L. LEE
ROBIN K. SHISHIDO
JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

April 13, 2023
10:00 A.M.
State Capitol, Teleconference

S.C.R. 145, S.D. 1
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO STUDY THE
FEASIBILITY AND ADVISABILITY OF ELIMINATING THE STATE'S SAFETY
INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS FOR MOTOR VEHICLES

House Committee on Transportation

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** S.C.R. 145, S.D. 1, which requests the DOT to study the feasibility and advisability of eliminating the State's safety inspection requirements for motor vehicles.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

April 13, 2023
10 a.m.
Conference Room 312 andVideoconference

To: House Committee on Transportation
   Rep. Chris Todd, Chair
   Rep. Darius K. Kila, Vice Chair

From: Grassroot Institute of Hawaii
   Ted Kefalas, Director of Strategic Campaigns

RE: SCR145 SD1 — REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY AND ADVISABILITY OF ELIMINATING THE STATE'S SAFETY INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS FOR MOTOR VEHICLES.

Comments Only

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

The Grassroot Institute of Hawaii would like to offer its comments on SCR145 SD1, which would request the state Department of Transportation to conduct a study on whether Hawaii's annual vehicle safety inspections should be abolished.

Across the country, only 15 states require safety inspections every year.[1] It is clear that mechanical failures are the cause of only 3% of accidents nationwide,[2] but research on whether mandatory inspections reduce traffic accidents has yielded unclear results.

A study on the end of vehicle inspections in New Jersey found that "vehicle safety inspections do not represent an efficient use of government funds, and do not appear to have any significantly mitigating effect on the role of car failure in traffic accidents."[3]

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[1] Christina Walsh, "Why Do Some States In the USA Have Vehicle Safety Inspections?" VINSmart, Nov. 8, 2021.
[2] Alex Hoagland and Trevor Woolley, "It's No Accident: Evaluating the Effectiveness of Vehicle Safety Inspections," Contemporary Economic Policy, 2018, p. 14.
[3] Ibid.

Hawaii's Legislative Reference Bureau studied the issue in 1995 and concluded: "There is no conclusive evidence to indicate that the State's periodic motor vehicle inspection program either is or is not achieving its desired outcome."[4]

In 2019, the state Senate passed Senate Resolution 14, which directed the state Department of Transportation to conduct its own study of mandatory inspections. Since this report was never conducted, we believe this resolution would be a step toward assessing the value of Hawaii's vehicle inspection regime.

As it stands, Hawaii's vehicle inspection laws are a burden in terms of time and cost, and especially burden low-income families who must pay for car checkups every year. Given this expense, mandatory inspections should create some appreciable public benefit to have any justification.

A study of their effectiveness would shine a light on whether inspections reduce traffic accidents, and would help inform the Legislature on whether to keep the annual inspections around.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Ted Kefalas
Director of Strategic Campaigns
Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

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[4] Keith Fukumoto, "Periodic Motor Vehicle Inspection in Hawaii: A Study of Selected Issues," Legislative Reference Bureau, Report No. 7, 1995, p. 45.

SCR-145-SD-1
Submitted on: 4/11/2023 4:48:41 PM
Testimony for TRN on 4/13/2023 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support this Resolution.

SCR-145-SD-1
Submitted on: 4/11/2023 9:32:09 PM
Testimony for TRN on 4/13/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keke Manera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support all efforts to study the feasibility and advisability of eliminating the states safety inspection requirements. The state needs to fix the roads so that our cars can in fact remain safe and operable. 🚧⬤🚗🚧⬤🚗🚧⬤🚗😖😖😖