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**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
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February 14, 2023  
3:15 P.M.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224 and Teleconference

**S.B. 315**  
**RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION**

Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts

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The Department of Transportation (DOT) **opposes** S.B. 315, which classifies certain former military vehicles as special interest vehicles and enables owners of former military vehicles to apply for registration.

The DOT has concerns about the safety of these vehicles operating on our roadways as they do not meet Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS). Under 49 CFR 571.7(c), vehicles manufactured pursuant to military specifications and sold directly to the U.S. military are exempted from the requirement to comply with FMVSS.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

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

TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
TRANSPORTATION CULTURE AND THE ARTS

February 14, 2023  
3:15 p.m.

Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee:

**MEASURE:** S.B. No. 315

**TITLE:** RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION.

**DESCRIPTION:** Classifies certain former military vehicles as special interest vehicles. Enables owners of former military vehicles to apply for registration. Effective 1/1/2024.

**POSITION:**

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

**COMMENTS:**

The Commission appreciates the intent of this measure to allow for use of former military vehicles to transport its owner’s property or passengers where there is no charge.

The Commission observes it is important to clarify that this measure does not exempt the need of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (“CPCN”) to be issued by the Commission for any activities, as defined in 271-8 and noted in the measure, related to compensation or hire provided from a party. In particular, should any persons utilizing this measure not comply with exemptions as set forth in HRS Chapter 271-5 (17), as it is interpreted by the Commission, these persons will be required to obtain a CPCN under HRS Chapter 271-8.

Should the Legislature wish to advance this measure, the Commission requests a clarification in language as follows.

"§286- Special interest vehicles; former military vehicles.

(a) Any person who is the owner of a former military vehicle may apply for registration with the director of finance of the county in which the former military vehicle is located.

(b) A former military vehicle may be used as other vehicles of the same type, including to transport the owner's property where the transportation is in furtherance of the owner's primary business. A former military vehicle may also be used to transport passengers without charge where the transportation is in furtherance of the owner's primary business; provided that transportation is directly to and from the owner's place of business. Use of the former military vehicle in this way must still comply with section 271-8, or be exempted under 271-5.

The Commission is willing to work with the Committee and stakeholders to further develop language in this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.