
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO SUPPORT THE COMPLETE
TRANSFER OF ITS REGULATORY AUTHORITY OVER MOTOR CARRIERS
AND OTHER MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION, INCLUDING WATER
CARRIERS, TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.

1 WHEREAS, the regulation and enforcement of motor carriers
2 operating on public highways is essential to ensuring public
3 safety, fair industry practices, and compliance with state laws;
4 and

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6 WHEREAS, under Hawaii's Motor Carrier Law, the Public
7 Utilities Commission regulates motor carriers transporting
8 passengers and property for compensation or hire; and

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10 WHEREAS, at the end of fiscal year 2023, the Public
11 Utilities Commission regulated approximately 1,741 motor carrier
12 entities across the State, which entails oversight of tariff
13 structures, annual financial reporting, and compliance with
14 administrative requirements; and

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16 WHEREAS, the enforcement of the Motor Carrier Law is a
17 resource-intensive responsibility, and the Department of
18 Transportation has a larger number of enforcement officers with
19 a greater statewide presence, enabling more consistent and
20 effective enforcement of motor carrier regulations; and

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22 WHEREAS, Act 117, Session Laws of Hawaii 2024, transferred
23 the enforcement of the Motor Carrier Law from the Public
24 Utilities Commission to the Department of Transportation,
25 leaving the regulatory authority with the Public Utilities
26 Commission; and

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28 WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation has experience in
29 managing and enforcing transportation regulations across various
30 sectors, allowing for a more streamlined, efficient, and



1 comprehensive approach to motor carrier oversight, particularly
2 in ensuring road safety and fair industry practices; and

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4 WHEREAS, while the transfer of full regulatory authority
5 over motor carriers to the Department of Transportation would
6 require legislative action, the Public Utilities Commission's
7 support for such a transition would help facilitate a smooth and
8 effective regulatory shift in the best interest of the industry
9 and the public; now, therefore,

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11 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
12 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
13 of 2025, that the Public Utilities Commission is urged to
14 support the complete transfer of its regulatory authority over
15 motor carriers and other means of transportation, including
16 water carriers, to the Department of Transportation, subject to
17 legislative action, to ensure more effective and comprehensive
18 oversight of the industry; and

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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
21 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Transportation,
22 Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, and Chairperson of
23 the Public Utilities Commission.

