



LIBERTARIAN
PARTY of HAWAII
IN OPPOSITION TO SB2556

The Libertarian Party of Hawaii is opposed to this bill, as it represents an unnecessary expansion of government authority that infringes on the freedoms of Hawaii's residents and visitors alike. SB2556 seeks to prohibit the operation of motor vehicles equipped with engine brakes/Jake brakes in areas marked 35mph, placing curfews on their use, and restricts vehicles towing trailers from using the far left lane on multi-lane roadways in counties with populations over 500,000. These measures embody the kind of paternalistic overreach that libertarians have long opposed.

Engine brakes are essential safety tools for heavy vehicles, allowing drivers to slow down without over-relying on friction brakes, which can overheat and fail on Hawaii's steep and winding roads. These brakes are not often needed in low-speed areas, but this is a safety backup for steep slopes to prevent rapid speed acceleration. This safeguard is needed, especially when the vehicle is pulling thousands of pounds of weight.

By prohibiting their use, the bill endangers drivers and encroaches on property rights protected under the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments of the U.S. Constitution, as well as Article I, Section 5 of the Hawaii State Constitution, which safeguards due process and liberty. Vehicle owners have a right to equip and operate their property as they see fit, so long as it does not directly harm others.

The lane restriction for towing vehicles arbitrarily singles out certain drivers, forcing them into slower lanes regardless of traffic conditions or safety needs. This could lead to increased congestion, accidents, and economic burdens on small businesses and individuals. **Why should the government presume to know better than drivers themselves?** Do not impose blanket prohibitions that erode freedom for the sake of bureaucratic convenience. Noise concerns do not rise to a level of harm that would necessitate bypassing these rights.

Moreover, the bill's penalties—fines and potential enforcement actions—exacerbate these issues by turning potentially safety-driven choices into punishable offenses, disproportionately affecting working-class residents who rely on trucks and trailers for livelihoods.

In conclusion, SB2556 sets a dangerous precedent for further erosions of liberty in the name of minor conveniences. I respectfully ask that you vote to defeat this bill and preserve the freedoms that make Hawaii a beacon of aloha and independence.

In Liberty,
Abbra Green
Libertarian Party of Hawaii | LibertarianHawaii.com | (808)824-LPHI

SB-2556

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 6:58:26 AM

Testimony for TRS on 2/5/2026 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Devin Statts	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We already have laws that truckers or large trucks should have mufflers on them which would stop a lot of the noise. For the uninformed people who don't do research or know nothing about driving a large vehicle the Jake Brakes or Engine Brakes really and truly help slow us down. This helps to prevent brake fade and our service brakes from failing.. If you think that 10 brakes is enough to stop 80,000 lbs of load coming at you from behind - you had better think again. I would hope that the trucker does everything within their power to drive that vehicle safely including using their jake brakes.

Enforce the laws already on the books about having a muffler on these large trucks.

As for driving in the far left lane of travel I am against limiting the types of vehicles to certain lanes. Why don't you enforce the speed limit laws???? I see judges everytime I am in court, for fun, where judges dismiss speeding tickets, no seat belt tickets, illegal lane changes, demonstration of speed tickets just for the hell of it. This is because the Judges have the final discretion to make the decision they are not tied in by law to fine or convict anyone.

Have you seen our roadways recently??? People are speeding all over the place and weaving in and out of traffic.. We need to get all facets of the enforcement part from Police, Prosecutor, and Judges to be on the same page and not feel sorry for someone or not write a ticket because they know a family member.. Yes i have seen this first hand.

The reason why people don't want large truck in the fast lane is because we don't speed - We go the speed limit... Remember what Speed LImit means.. If everyone is going at 55 mph and you go to the left lane and pass the vehicles what does this mean? It means you are speeding.

Come on Legislatures do your job and stop making new laws and let's enforce the laws we already have on the books.