



## **PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 2, 2017

### **PUC Encourages the Public to Stay Safe by Doing Business Only with PUC Certified Motor Carriers**

HONOLULU – The Hawai'i Public Utilities Commission's ("PUC") reminds the public that its enforcement officers continue to be on the road at unannounced times statewide to ensure that motor carriers are in compliance with state laws and rules. High-traffic tourist attraction areas such as Kailua, Oahu and Hana, Maui are among the patrolled areas.

The PUC regulates motor carriers, which are companies that transport persons or property for compensation or hire on public highways of the State of Hawaii; these include tour operators, but exclude taxis.

Under state law, all motor carriers must:

- Have an active Certificate or Permit issued by the PUC;
- Prominently display, on both sides their vehicles, their name, logo, or company initials and PUC number;
- Carry adequate commercial insurance coverage as required by law; and
- Charge rates approved by the PUC.

Failure to abide by all applicable state laws and rules may result in civil penalties of up to \$1,000 for each offense and, in the case of a continuing violation, up to \$500 for each additional day during which the failure or refusal continues.

The PUC reminds the public that illegal motor carriers may not carry adequate commercial insurance. Additionally, the fares illegal motor carriers charge customers are not reviewed and approved by the PUC to be just and reasonable. For these reasons, the PUC encourages the public to stay safe by only doing business with PUC certified motor carriers.

For more information on how to apply for a PUC motor carrier certificate or permit, please visit the PUC's website at <http://puc.hawaii.gov/filing/motor-carriers/application-for-motor-carrier-certificates-or-permits-for-transportation-passengers/>.

Anyone witnessing possible illegal motor carrier operations may file a Declaration with the Commission at <http://puc.hawaii.gov/filing/complaint/declaration-witness-motorcarrier/>.

Questions regarding motor carrier activity and certification may be directed to PUC's Compliance and Enforcement Section by phone at 808-586-2020 or by email at [puc@hawaii.gov](mailto:puc@hawaii.gov)

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