

STAND. COM. REP. NO. **343**

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 04 2008

RE: H.B. No. 2605
H.D. 2
S.D. 1

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa
President of the Senate
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2008
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Ways and Means, to which was referred H.B. No. 2605, H.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE ARMED SERVICES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to recognize the service and dedication of members of the National Guard and Reserves by providing to them the same exemption of motor vehicle weight taxes and fees as received by their active duty counterparts.

Specifically, the measure exempts all members in good standing of the National Guard, reserves, or armed services, including the Coast Guard, from county vehicular taxes and fees for their privately owned vehicles.

Testimony in support of the measure was received from the Department of Defense, the Department of Taxation, the City and County of Honolulu, the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, twelve members of the Hawaii National Guard Enlisted Association, two members of the Hawaii National Guard Association, and seven private citizens. The Tax Foundation submitted comments.

Your Committee finds that this exemption indicates to the members of the Guard and Reserves, especially those that recently returned from Iraq and Afghanistan, that Hawaii truly cares and supports their service to the State and nation. Your Committee also recognizes that benefits like this exemption help influence



our highly trained and experienced service members to remain in the Guard and Reserve and also assists in recruiting new members.

Upon further consideration, your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Deleting the exemption for registration fees;
- (2) Restricting the vehicle weight tax exemption to one noncommercial motor vehicle (rather than an unlimited number) per member;
- (3) Changing the effective date to October 1, 2008 rather than October 1, 2020; and
- (4) Making a technical nonsubstantive amendment for purposes of consistency and clarity.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Ways and Means that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2605, H.D. 2, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2605, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Ways and Means,

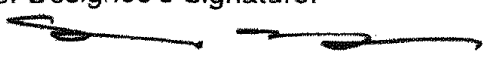


ROSALYN H. BAKER, Chair



The Senate
 Twenty-Fourth Legislature
 State of Hawaii

Record of Votes
Committee on Ways and Means
WAM

Bill / Resolution No.:* HB2605, HD2	Committee Referral: WAM	Date: 4/1/08		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
BAKER, Rosalyn H. (C)	/			
TSUTSUI, Shan S. (VC)	/			
CHUN OAKLAND, Suzanne	/			
ENGLISH, J. Kalani				/
FUKUNAGA, Carol	/			
HOOSER, Gary L.	/			
INOUYE, Lorraine R.	/			
KIM, Donna Mercado	/			
MENOR, Ron	/			
TOKUDA, Jill N.	/			
HEMMINGS, Fred	/			
WHALEN, Paul	/			
TOTAL	11	0	0	1
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes