

DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

919 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 101 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V/TDD) • Fax (808) 586-8129

February 7, 2008

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HOUSING AND HEALTH

House Bill 2581 – Relating to Long Term Care Facilities

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) opposes House Bill 2851 relating to long-term care facilities that provides special license plates for motor vehicles registered to long-term care facilities to allow such vehicles to be used to park in stalls designated for people with disabilities while transporting disabled patients under the facility's care.

The changes suggested in this bill are contrary to federal guidelines that provide for the permit/placard to be issued to people, not vehicles or agencies.

This bill is similar to House Bill 2851 that provides nursing homes permits/placards that allow the use of designated accessible parking spaces for persons with disabilities. DCAB opposed House Bill 2851 and believes this bill is even less desirable.

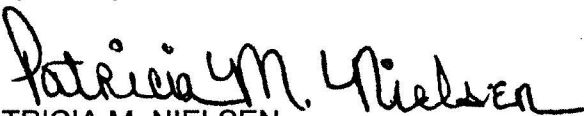
Currently there are approximately one thousand eight hundred (1,800) facilities that provide residential care for persons who have some type of disability. We are concerned that this bill will have a negative impact on enforcement efforts. It increases the number of placards in use, but does not increase the number of available parking spaces for people with mobility impairments. This increase in the use of designated accessible parking stalls will cause fewer spaces to be available for use by individuals with disabilities. Furthermore, State law requires the State to reimburse the counties \$12 per placard issued, thus the increase in issuance will require an additional appropriation.

If a long-term care facility transports a patient who has a mobility impairment, the facility may use that patient's permit/placard in the vehicle when actively transporting that particular patient. Therefore, there is no situation where the patient is denied access. This bill is primarily for convenience and is not necessary.

We urge you to hold this bill in Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,


PATRICIA M. NIELSEN
Chairperson
Legislative Committee


FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director

February 5, 2008

TO: Human Services and Housing Committee
Chair Representative Maile Shimabukuro and members of Committee

HSHtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov
fax: 808-586-6189

FROM: Chris Ridley, LCSW
Director of Social Services
Life Care Center of Hilo
808-959-9151

RE: **HB 2581** Relating to Parking for disabled persons --

SUPPORT

Hearing: Thursday, February 7, 2008, 8:45 am; Conference Room 329

I am a community member. I am testifying in **SUPPORT of HB 2581** relating to Parking for disabled persons.

The House Bill draft allows nursing facilities to apply for and receive removable windshield placards for their vehicles that are used solely for transporting nursing facility residents for the purpose of parking in spaces reserved for persons with disabilities.

I believe that we should be allowing nursing facility vehicles to park in disabled parking areas. This will allow our vulnerable population to remain in close contact with their worker and help them maintain some sense of dignity.

I strongly support **HB 2581** relating to parking for disabled persons and urge your favorable **support** of this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

February 5, 2008

TO: Human Services and Housing Committee
Chair Representative Maile Shimabukuro and members of Committee

testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov
fax: 808-586-8464

FROM: Priscilla V. Escobar
Print

Priscilla V. Escobar
Sign

Lani Goodman
Print

Lani Goodman
Sign

ANITA TAKAMA
Print

Anita Takama
Sign

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HB 2581
FORM LETTER FROM COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Priscilla Esentor
Lani Goodman
Anita Takama
Debra
Patricia Suganuma
Margie Kanahele
Cynthia Kaetsu
Patricia Muna
Laurencia Rapoza
Mariana Nobriga
Winston
Dorothy Tait
Noana Kaiui
Maria Ulep
Eufornia
Angelita
Helen Lopez
Felix
Jenny Nisperos
Evelyn Uratani
Kevin Robinson
Lance
Francis Dela Cruz
April Lilling
Magdalena Panscit
Ashleigh Kirk
Vivian Manoapat
Amy Yamaki
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Dorothy