



## 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 6, 2008

### TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

#### House Bill 2854 – Relating to Transportation for Persons with Disabilities

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) opposes House Bill 2854 relating to parking for persons with disabilities that extends the privilege of a parking permit/placard and identification card from an individual to eligible nursing homes.

The amendment is contrary to federal guidelines that provide for the permit/placard to be issued to people not vehicles and not agencies.

Extending the eligibility to agencies or vehicles greatly worsen our enforcement efforts as staff of agencies could then use the permit/placard inappropriately since it can be used in any vehicle. If a nursing home transports a patient who has a mobility impairment, the nursing home may use that patient's permit/placard in the vehicle when actively transporting the patient. Therefore, there is no problem to be resolved.

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



For: Wednesday, Feb 6  
9:00 am  
House TRN

National Association of Social Workers

Hawaii Chapter

February 3, 2008

TO: Rep. Joseph Souki, Chair  
And members of the House Transportation Committee

FROM: Debbie Shimizu, LSW  
National Association of Social Workers, Hawaii

RE: HB 2854 Relating to Parking for Disabled Persons- **SUPPORT**

Chair Souki and members of the House Transportation Committee, I am Debbie Shimizu, Executive Director of the National Association of Social Workers, Hawaii (NASW). I am testifying in **SUPPORT** of HB 2854 to allow nursing facilities to receive disabled parking placards or license plates.

Currently, our state statute (HRS 291-51) allows only individuals with a disability to apply for and receive disabled parking placards or license plates. However, when nursing facilities transport their elderly patients to doctor's appointments, they are not able to park in parking stalls designated for the disabled. They must drop off their patients on the sidewalk and then find regular parking. This creates a vulnerable situation for the elderly who are left on the sidewalk waiting for the nursing facility staff person to take them to their doctor's office.

The proposed bill would allow the nursing facility to apply for and receive placards or license plates that would allow them to park their vehicles in the parking stalls designated for persons with disabilities. This would be much safer for the elderly patient and the person transporting them from the nursing facility.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of HB 2854.

House of Representatives  
The Twenty-Fourth Legislation  
Regular Session 2008  
Transportation Committee  
State Capital  
Honolulu Hawaii

Subject: Opposition to HB 2854

Hearing February 6, 2008 9:00am

Chairman Souki, Representing Nashimoto, transportation committee members.

Aloha my name is Mark Giblin, Multiple Sclerosis Society Hawaii Division Government Relations Committee Chairman

House Bill 2854 is totally ludicrous and contradicting Code of Federal Regulations outlining parking spaces for persons with disabilities.

With a continuous increasing of the need for persons with disability parking, and very little enforcement, parking spaces are becoming very limited, and on numerous occasions very scares because of those that are using them that are not in need.

Other than providing revisions to the disabled parking laws to allow those without a specific need to use disabled parking, We need to look at such revisions and specifications providing persons with disability parking spaces, and not allowing those without a need to use and take up very highly needed accessible parking for the physically disable.

My wife and I both use adaptive equipment for mobility purposes; our van is equipped with a ramp on the passenger side which fully fills most all access aisles in Hawaii. On many occasions it is difficult to locate a disabled parking space; one of the major problems we find is those neglecting the disabled parking, and very little, if any enforcement on the island of Oahu.

Transportation committee I am asking you today, to vote against House Bill 2854

  
Mark Giblin

Rep. Joseph M. Souki, Chair  
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Transportation

February 6, 2008

**OPPOSE HB2854 RELATING TO PARKING FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

Dear Chair Souki,

My name is Art Frank from Foster Village, Aliamanu/Salt Lake. I have been using hand controls to drive my car for nearly 30 years. As a user of the disabled placards I have testified on dozens of bills relating to disabled parking. In 30 years I've seen quite a few bills like HB2854 which are proposed not to assist the disabled person like me, but for the convenience of the able bodied person. I FEEL VERY STRONGLY AGAINST HB2854 BECAUSE IT WILL ALLOW NURSING HOMES PLACARDS FOR THEIR VEHICLES AS A CONVENIENCE FOR THE STAFF. Nursing home vehicles especially vans will occupy already limited van accessible parking spaces that should be used by individuals who need the space to enter and exit their vans. I'M SPEAKING ESPECIALLY OF THOSE WHO USE WHEELCHAIRS AND TRAVEL INDEPENDENTLY WITHOUT ANY ASSISTANCE, THEY REALLY NEED THE DISABLED PARKING-----NOT ABLE BODIED STAFF. I'm ambulatory so I at least can park elsewhere if the disabled parking isn't available, but for those with wheelchairs they're stuck without a ramp or space to get their wheelchairs in or out of their vehicles/vans.

Over the years other able bodied persons have tried to justify the use of disabled parking. I've always fought it because once you open the door, other transportation vehicles will seek to use this program. MANY DRIVERS WITH DISABILITIES HAVE NO ONE TO DROP THEM OFF OR OFFER OTHER ASSISTANCE AS PATIENTS TRAVELING WITH NURSING HOME STAFF.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THE INTENT OF NATIONAL AND LOCAL STATUTE IS TO ASSIST THE DISABLED TO INDEPENDENTLY ACCESS THE COMMUNITY. PLEASE DO NOT PASS THIS BILL.

Sincerely,

Art Frank  
1509 Piikea St.  
Honolulu, HI 96818-1842

TO: House Committee on Transportation  
Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2008 at 9:00AM  
Conference Room 309

FROM: Kirby L. Shaw  
425 Ena Road, #706-A  
Honolulu, HI 96815  
[shawk001@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:shawk001@hawaii.rr.com)  
944-0828

SUBJ: HB 2854 - RELATING TO PARKING FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.

DATE: February 5, 2008

Dear Committee on Transportation Members,

**I am writing to express strong opposition to HB 2854.** The bill will allow nursing facilities to obtain parking permits to allow their vehicles to park in spaces reserved for persons with disabilities. On its face, it seems like a good idea. However, the effect will be severe for those who already have trouble finding an open accessible parking space. That is, allowing nursing homes to park their vehicles in accessible parking spaces would create a great potential for abuse by nursing facility personnel who have access to a facility's vehicle. Abuse is already great among people who use a family member's parking permit, those who fraudulently obtain a parking permit, and those who park in those spaces without a permit. In short, there is already a large abuse problem. HB 2854 would make the abuse problem even greater and reduce the availability of reserved parking spaces for persons with legitimate mobility impairments. This will be the result if the measure becomes law.

I use a motorized wheelchair and own a modified van with an automatic ramp. Without accessible parking spaces, it would be very difficult to get in and out of my van. While there are many considerate and conscientious citizens who scorn the idea of abusing a parking spaces reserved persons with disabilities, there are still many others I often witness who violate the law and park in such spaces without a second thought.

The better way to assure that nursing facilities are able to make use of reserved parking spaces for persons with disabilities and to minimize the potential for abuse is to leave the statute as is. That is, if a nursing facility has a client with a parking permit, the statute already allows a nursing facility vehicle to park in a reserved parking space for persons with disabilities whenever it transports that client with the disability – the permit holder. Obtaining a parking permit for a nursing home client is easy in the sense that once a client's physician certifies that he or she qualifies, the application process can be conducted by mail. This is a small step to take in terms inconvenience, but it ensures that permits will be issued only to individuals who qualify as opposed to a facility vehicle that can be abused at any time without scrutiny.

In essence, **HB 2854 will not be good for individuals with disabilities** who qualify for a parking permit because of the abuse that will take away necessary parking spaces. Therefore, **I urge the committee to oppose this bill.** Please contact me at the address above if you have any questions.  
Mahalo nui.

Sincerely,


KIRBY L. SHAW

February 5, 2008


TO: Transportation Committee  
Chair Representative Joseph Souki and members of Committee

testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov  
fax: 808-586-9499

FROM:

DEBRA L. DAWA   
Print Sign

Patricia Suganuma   
Print Sign

Margie Kawahale   
Print Sign

RE: **HB 2854** Relating to Parking for disabled persons -- **SUPPORT**

Hearing: Wednesday, February 6, 2008, 9:00 am; Conference Room 309

I am a community member. I am testifying in **SUPPORT** of **HB 2854** 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 2854** relating to parking for disabled persons and urge your favorable support of this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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TO: Transportation Committee  
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testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov  
fax: 808-586-9499

FROM:

Cynthia E. Kaetsu  
Print

Cynthia E. Kaetsu  
Sign

PATRICIA MUÑA  
Print

[Signature]  
Sign

Mariana Nobrega  
Print

Mariana Nobrega  
Sign

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fax: 808-586-9499

FROM: Laurencia Rapoza  
Print

Laurencia Rapoza  
Sign

WINSTON SOLMERON  
Print

W Solmeron  
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KLOANA KACI  
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KACI  
Sign

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FROM:

DOROTHY TAIT  
Print

*Dorothy Tait*  
Sign

EUFEMIA CASTASUS  
Print

*Eufemia Castasus*  
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MARIA ULAP  
Print

*Maria Ulap*  
Sign

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FROM:

Angelita V. Pavan  
Print

Angelita V. Pavan  
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Helen Lopez  
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Helen Lopez  
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Felix Falung  
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Felix Falung  
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FROM: Evelyn C. Uratan  
Print

Evelyn C. Uratan  
Sign

JENNY NISPEROS  
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Jenny Nisperos  
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LANCE HOWA  
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Lance Howa  
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fax: 808-586-9499

FROM: Kevin Robinson  
Print

Kevin Robinson  
Sign

April Kiling  
Print

April E. Kiling  
Sign

FRANCIS DEVA CRUZ  
Print

Francis D. DeLa Cruz  
Sign

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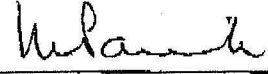
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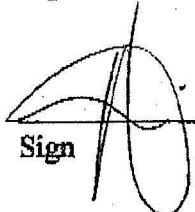
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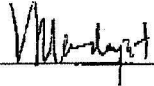
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FROM: Magdalena Panscik   
 Print Sign

Ashleigh Kida   
 Print Sign

VIVIAN MANDAPAT   
 Print Sign

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FROM: Amy Yamaki  
Print

Amy Yamaki  
Sign

RICO Estorpe  
Print

Rico Estorpe  
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DONALD Aquino  
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Donald Aquino  
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fax: 808-586-9499

FROM: Priscilla V. Escobar  
Print

Priscilla V. Escobar  
Sign

Lani Goodman  
Print

Lani Goodman  
Sign

ANITA TAKANA  
Print

Anita Takana  
Sign

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