

Larry Geller
Honolulu, HI 96817

HB2854
TRN
Wednesday February 6, 2008
9:00 a.m.
Room 309

LATE

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
Rep. Joseph M. Souki, Chair
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

February 5, 2008

Re: HB2854— Makes vehicles owned and operated by nursing facilities eligible for disabled parking license plates, placards, and identification cards

In Opposition

This is a very well-intentioned bill and I see that it has many sponsors. But it also has some major problems, and so I recommend that it not be passed.

People with disabilities use the accessible parking spaces to enter and exit their vans. These spaces are in very short supply as it is, and it's quite common that they become unavailable because unpermitted cars use the reserved spaces illegally. Making placards available to nursing home drivers will further reduce the pool of spaces available to people who really need them.


The drivers of nursing home vehicles do not themselves require an accessible parking space. Also, if a passenger meets the eligibility requirements, the driver can use their placard. So the issuance of placards to nursing home vans is only a convenience.

Unfortunately, if these vans are issued permits, abuse is almost certain. Since the permits go with the vehicle, staff will most likely use them when on errands such as shopping. The driver does not need an accessible parking space to carry out those errands, and the space is taken away from those who need it.

It will be impossible to control the use of these permits.

Finally, this bill is in contradiction to the clear intent of federal and state statutes that reserve accessible parking place for the use of persons with disabilities who truly need them.

Accordingly, I recommend to the committee that this bill not be passed.


Larry Geller

Francine Aona Kenyon

LATE

dba KULI IKE KOKUA

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Wednesday, February 6, 2008 at 9 am
Conference Room 309

**TESTIMONY
TO
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
ON
HB 2854, RELATING TO PARKING FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

Aloha, Chair Joseph Souki, Vice-Chair Scott Nishimoto, Members and Friends:

I am Francine Kenyon, a long-time advocate and consultant for deaf, hard-of-hearing, and deaf-blind people of the State of Hawaii on the voluntary basis. I wear many hats.

I strongly oppose HB 2854, *Relating to Parking for Persons with Disabilities*, because it would be too costly for the state to spend on handicapped parking placards for nursing facilities to drop off the patients at hospitals or nursing homes. I am surprised with a disbelief when I heard about this bill.

It is not necessary for every nursing facility to have the handicapped parking permit. All the nursing facility driver could do is to simply drive to the front of the facilities and to drop the patient and the nurse there. When the patient and the nurse are done with the visitation, the nursing facility driver can drive down to pick them up.

It would be unfair for people with disabilities who are the ones who drive themselves and cannot walk long distance like me. I have rheumatoid arthritis on my knees and now just had arthritis on my right foot, making it very difficult for me to walk long distance.

So please be considerate and understanding that there is no need for any nursing facility to have the handicapped parking placards which are very costly to the state and to the counties.

I have seen many able-bodied drivers illegally misusing the handicapped parking placards that originally belong to their related family member with disabilities who are not with them.

Again, I am opposed to this HB 2854 by not allowing the nursing facilities to have the placards which are reserved for drivers having disabilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify against this unnecessary bill.

Sincerely,

Francine Aona Kenyon
Deaf Advocate & Consultant

LATE

February 5, 2008

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

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

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.