

Testimony in Support of H.B. No. 3228
A Bill for an Act, Relating to Abandoned Vehicles

February 8, 2008

House of Representative
Twenty-Fourth Legislature, 2008
State of Hawaii

Dear Sirs and Madams:

Subject: H.B. No. 3228
A Bill for an Act, Relating to Abandoned Vehicles

We respectfully request that you approve H.B. No. 3228. Your approval of H.B. No. 3228 will allow for a lawful procedure to remove two(2) abandoned rusty old cars that are parked on the private lane that we must use to access our home. The two(2) abandoned rusty old cars are in so bad condition that we worry that our 4 ½ year old son Alexander may someday accidentally cut himself from the rusting metal or broken glass pieces of the cars when he is playing or walking through the lane. Also, we are concerned about the cars being a breeding ground for vectors, e.g., rats, roaches, etc., which could cause unsanitary conditions. Requests have been made to the owner of the vehicles, on behalf of the common area owners of the private lane, to remove the derelict vehicles and resulted with no success. Accordingly, your approval of H.B. No. 3228 would benefit the health and safety of our family and neighbors.

Thank you very much for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Mark and Allison Tomomitsu
3443-A Wela Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96815

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Dear Representatives,

Subject: H.B. No. 3228 A Bill for an Act, Relating to Abandoned Vehicles

I support and sincerely request that you approve H.B. No. 3228. Your approval of H.B. No. 3228 will allow for a lawful procedure to remove abandoned vehicles that are parked on the private lanes. Such laws are already in place for public streets. Are not private lanes PUBLIC areas? They must be accessed by the owners and others use them as well. I think it is time we addressed this issue since there are so many of these lanes in Hawaii and many people have expressed frustration in this area.

I would like to explain how this bill can only help the living environments of Hawaii. The abandoned vehicles on my lane have been there since 1980. I own a house at 3443A Wela St.in a very nice clean older neighborhood. I live on a lane that is between two streets Wela and Edna ... I have been told because the lane is Private the City and County can do nothing about this situation...Which is as follows:

Our neighbor who lives on Wela St. (not on the lane) has been using our lane to dump his broken down (2) junk cars since 1982. Needless to say that if you do not move a car for over 20 years, not even an inch, basically they are immovable now, falling apart where they sit..(see attached photos). They are rusted, no tires and he also uses them to store other garbage. There are 4 houses down our lane and we have all asked him to move the cars because it prevents access to our lane fully from the Wela St. side. We have to go to the Edna St. side to access our homes. Because the cars are falling apart and rusting ... there is oil, rusty parts falling off the car into the lane. Every weekend I have to go clean up all the metal and rusty parts that have fallen off the cars. Not to mention it is a danger to children and brings the entire neighborhood value down. It also makes our neighborhood look like a junk yard...you cannot fully imagine the extent of this unless you actually see the situation. I have explained it to several people and when they saw it in person, they expressed concern for the situation we all have to live in...

I called the police about the abandoned cars, but because this is on a "private" lane they cannot touch the cars. The policeman told me to talk to the Department of Environmental Quality because it is causing rats (from garbage), gas and battery acid seeping out and going into our sewer system...So I did. They said they could not help. They told me to contact Department of Motor Vehicles since the cars have not been running nor registered since 1982, maybe they could help...which I did and now I am back to square one ...it is a "private" lane so they can't do anything..I am only concerned about the common area , just to make our neighborhood livable...we pay taxes just as everyone does but if someone was to abandon a car in front of their home on a "public" street, it would be removed.

We have no authority to take action on our own street. Requests have been made to the owner of the vehicles, on behalf of the common area owners of the private lane, to remove the derelict vehicles with no success. Accordingly, your approval of H.B. No. 3228 would benefit the health and safety of our family and neighbors, as well as the many citizens living in similar situations.

Thank you very much for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Francin Summers
3443-A Wela Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96815