

TO:

COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Rep. Robert N. Herkes, Chair

Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chair

Rep. Cindy Evans

Rep. Joseph M. Souki

Rep. Josh Green, M.D.

Rep. Clift Tsuji

Rep. Ken Ito

Rep. Ryan I. Yamane

Rep. Sylvia Luke

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita

Rep. Hermina M. Morita

Rep. Barbara C. Marumoto

Rep. Alex M. Sonson

Rep. Cynthia Thielen

FROM: BARNABY ROBINSON

LATE TESTIMONY

DATE: FEBRUARY 27, 2008

RE: **TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 509HD2**

POSITION: **AGAINST THE ELIMINATION OF UNHOOKING FEE**

My name is Barnaby Robinson, owner of Waialae Towing service.

Non-consent towing is a necessity in life as people that own private property should not be hindered from parking in stalls that are earmarked for their use. Unfortunately, some people choose to ignore private property rights and illegally park their vehicle where they shouldn't, and the only recourse the property owner has is to have the vehicle removed, at the vehicle owner's expense.

Tow companies provide a valuable service by removing these errant vehicles, much to the delight of the property owner, and the dismay of the violating party. This type of towing is difficult, and much planning and care is taken to properly and safely remove the illegally parked vehicle. A lot of effort is expended to obtain equipment, manpower, impound yards, fuel, administrative personnel, insurance and training to handle the task at hand. Once we have been dispatched to the scene and are in preparation to tow, there are costs associated with this work. The fact that the owner showed up while we are in the process of performing our hook up, does not diminish these costs, and historically we have been able to partially recover these costs by charging an 'unhooking' fee. This fee does not cover all the costs associated with responding to the problem parking, but helped to defer some of them.

Removal of payment to tow companies that responsibly and professionally respond to a call for help increases our cost of doing business, which is not right for this legislature to arbitrarily remove from us.

Please allow us to continue the practice of collecting an unhooking fee so we may continue to provide the services our communities are requesting.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to present testimony.