

(Revised)



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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

April 4, 2008

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

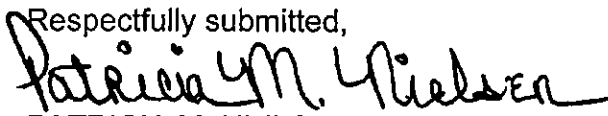
Senate Concurrent Resolution 135 - Requesting the Legislative Reference Bureau to Survey Other States to Determine How Nursing Home Facilities in Rural Areas Address Their Transportation and Parking Issues Related to the Transport of Nursing Facility Residents

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports the intent of Senate Concurrent Resolution 135 with comments. This resolution arose subsequent to the demise of several bills in this year's Legislature seeking to give nursing homes and other long term care institutions eligibility to receive a parking placard for persons with disabilities. Our Board went on record opposing all those bills. We wish to reaffirm our continued opposition to the expansion of eligibility. However, we are not unsympathetic to the logistical challenges the nursing facilities face and we are willing to support a study to receive an objective assessment of how other states are addressing this issue.

We wish to note that the concerns of nursing homes are not unique, as we have heard concerns from entities such as taxis, paratransit vehicles, adult residential care homes, etc. Whatever is learned from this study will need to be viewed in the context of those agencies or organizations that all have similar interests as they transport people with disabilities to and from medical facilities or other locations in the community.

We would be willing to participate in any study or group as noted in the resolution.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

PATRICIA M. NIELSEN
Chairperson
Legislative Committee


FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director



SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair

Conference Room 211
April 4, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.

Testimony in support of SCR 135

I am Coral Andrews, Vice President of the Healthcare Association of Hawaii, which represents the entire spectrum of health care, including acute care hospitals, two-thirds of the long term care beds in Hawaii, as well as home care and hospice providers. I regret that I shall not be able to testify in person due to a previous commitment. However, I appreciate this opportunity to submit written testimony in support of SCR 135, which requests the Legislative Reference Bureau to survey other states to determine how nursing facilities in rural areas address transportation and parking issues.

Transportation of residents from the nursing facility to external appointments (ex: doctor visit, dental visit, etc.) is an essential component of daily activities that the nursing facilities provide to their residents. Our Neighbor Island members have confirmed that the logistics of carrying out these daily support activities are difficult because the nursing facility vans used to transport residents do not qualify to park in a handicapped parking area which is often closer to the site of care. Providers describe how they often have to park a distance from the drop off site and push a wheelchair or gurney through a parking lot to the doctor's or dentist's office. In some cases, an ambulance service is contracted to provide transportation, which is not cost effective if an alternative option such as what is suggested in this resolution could be identified.

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii supports SCR 135, which encourages the identification of alternative disabled parking/transportation options for Neighbor Island providers as they strive to support the medical and dental needs of their frail and/or elderly residents.

Ken H. Takayama
Acting Director

Research (808) 587-0666
Revisor (808) 587-0670
Fax (808) 587-0681



LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU
State of Hawaii
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Written Comments Only

SCR135

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO SURVEY OTHER STATES TO DETERMINE HOW NURSING FACILITIES IN RURAL AREAS ADDRESS THEIR TRANSPORTATION AND PARKING ISSUES RELATED TO THE TRANSPORT OF NURSING FACILITY RESIDENTS

Comments by the Legislative Reference Bureau
Ken H. Takayama, Acting Director

Presented to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Friday, April 4, 2008, 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 211

Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on S.C.R. No. 135. The Bureau takes no position for or against this measure but offers the following comments:

The resolution directs the Bureau to survey other states to determine how nursing facilities in rural areas address their transportation and parking issues related to the transport of nursing facility residents.

As presently drafted, the study requested appears to be both straightforward and manageable in scope.

We will endeavor to work with the Legislature to produce a study that is informative and useful.



For: Friday, April 4
10:00 am
Senate WAM

National Association of Social Workers

Hawaii Chapter

April 3, 2008

TO: Senator Roz Baker, Chair
And members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee

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

RE: SCR 135 Requesting the Legislative Reference Bureau to Survey Other States to Determine How Nursing Facilities in Rural Areas Address Their Transportation and Parking Issues Related to the Transport of Nursing Facility Residents- **SUPPORT**

Chair Baker and members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, I am Debbie Shimizu, Executive Director of the National Association of Social Workers, Hawaii (NASW). I am testifying in **SUPPORT** of SCR 135 Requesting the Legislative Reference Bureau to Survey Other States to Determine How Nursing Facilities in Rural Areas Address Their Transportation and Parking Issues Related to the Transport of Nursing Facility Residents.

Thank you for hearing this resolution.

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 Disability and Communication Access Board testified in opposition to SB 2564 which would have allowed nursing facilities to apply for and receive removable windshield placards for their vehicles that are used solely for transporting nursing facility patients for the purpose of parking in spaces reserved for persons with disabilities stating that permits and placards are only issued to people and not vehicles or agencies. However, this still does not address the problem that exists when nursing facilities need to transport their patients to doctor's appointments. This problem is much more challenging in rural areas and the neighbor islands where transportation options are limited.

We would appreciate a survey conducted by the Legislative Reference Bureau of how other states are dealing with this problem. Furthermore, we welcome a discussion with the Disability and Communication Access Board and other concerned groups to develop a possible solution to this problem.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of SCR 135.

April 3, 2008

TO: Chair Senator Roz Baker
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FAX: Senate Sergeant-At-Arms 586-6659

E-Mail: testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Hearing: Friday, April 4, 2008
10:00am
Conference Room 211

FROM: Chris Ridley, LCSW, QCSW

RE: **SCR 135** Relating to Parking Issue for nursing facility vehicles -- **SUPPORT**

I am a community member. I am testifying in **SUPPORT of SCR 135** relating to surveying other states to determine how nursing facilities in rural areas address their transportation and parking needs.

The Senate Resolution draft requests Hawaii to look at nursing facility vehicles parking privileges in other states and make recommendations for our state.

I strongly support **SCR 135** relating to our state researching potential solutions and urge your favorable **support** of this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Chris Ridley
Print Name

Chris Ridley
Sign Name

Life Care Center of Hilo
944 West Kawaihine Street
Hilo, HI 96720
808-959-9151
ridley@hawaii.rr.com

April 3, 2008

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Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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FROM: Alisa Racelo, Administrator, Hale Kupuna Heritage Home

RE: **SCR 135** Relating to Parking Issue for nursing facility vehicles -- **SUPPORT**

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Alisa Racelo, Administrator
Print Name

Sign Name

April 3, 2008

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FROM: NANCY SMITH

RE: SCR 135 Relating to Parking Issue for nursing facility vehicles -- SUPPORT

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NANCY SMITH
Print Name

Nancy Smith
Sign Name

April 3, 2008

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Priscilla Kamau car
Print Name

Priscilla Kamau car
Sign Name

JEFFER CAGAT

jc

[Handwritten Signature]

MILTON PICALMA

FELY RAZO

F. Razo

Amis Pascual

[Handwritten Signature]

April 3, 2008

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FROM: Diana Moriarty RN. Kohala Hospital

RE: **SCR 135** Relating to Parking Issue for nursing facility vehicles -- **SUPPORT**

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Diana Moriarty RN
Print Name

Diana J. Moriarty
Sign Name

April 3, 2008

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FROM: Susan Lucente

RE: SCR 135 Relating to Parking Issue for nursing facility vehicles -- **SUPPORT**

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Susan Lucente, BSW
Print Name

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Sign Name

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FROM: Caroline St-Laurent

RE: **SCR 135** Relating to Parking Issue for nursing facility vehicles -- **SUPPORT**

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Caroline St-Laurent

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Sign Name

April 3, 2008

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FROM: Rochelle Gardener Hale Makua Nursing Home (maui)

RE: **SCR 135** Relating to Parking Issue for nursing facility vehicles --- **SUPPORT**

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Rochelle Gardener
Print Name

Rochelle J. Gardener
Sign Name *RSW, HCSW*

April 3, 2008

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FROM: Bela

RE: SCR 135 Relating to Parking Issue for nursing facility vehicles -- SUPPORT

I am a community member. I am testifying in SUPPORT of SCR 135 relating to surveying other states to determine how nursing facilities in rural areas address their transportation and parking needs.

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Bela
Print Name

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Sign Name

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FROM: Verna

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Print Name

Verna E Uyefake
Sign Name

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FROM: Rush

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DUSTA BALCITA
Print Name

Roz Baker
Sign Name

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FROM: *Aana*

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Print Name

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FROM: Deborah Deluz-Baloy

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Nathalie Pagan
Print Name


Sign Name

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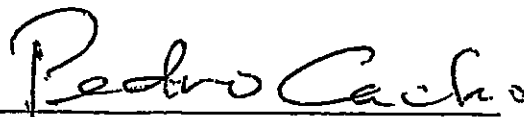
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Aurora Gaddi
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Gary Torres
Print Name

Bary Jones
Sign Name

April 3, 2008

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Tricia Weisgerber
Print Name

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Sign Name

April 3, 2008

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FROM: _____

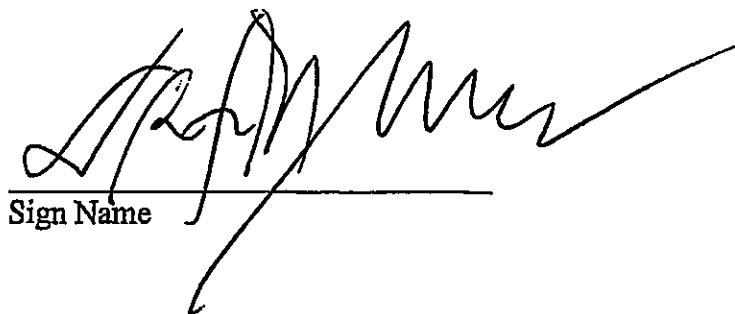
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DANIEL MARCOS
Print Name



Sign Name