

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
STATE COUNCIL  
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
919 ALA MOANA BOULEVARD, ROOM 113  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814  
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543

February 5, 2010

The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
House Committee on Health  
Twenty-Fifth Legislature  
State Capitol  
State of Hawaii  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Yamane and Members of the Committee:

**SUBJECT: HB 1859 HD1 – RELATING TO FUNDING FOR PARKING FOR  
DISABLED PERSONS**

The position and views expressed in this testimony do not represent nor reflect the position and views of the Department of Health.

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities **SUPPORTS THE INTENT OF HB 1859 HD1**. The purpose of this bill is to increase the State motor vehicle registration fee to be paid into the Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) special fund to enforce the Parking for Disabled program. The bill also deletes funding for State credentialing for interpreters under the special fund.

The Council appreciates the Legislature's initiative to designate \$1.00 from the annual motor vehicle registration fee into DCAB's special fund to administer and support the Parking for Disabled program. This seems to be a reasonable alternative to generate revenue to sustain the program. We defer to DCAB for the fiscal impact on the amount of funds the \$1.00 fee would generate.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 1859 HD1.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Waynette K.Y. Cabral in black ink.

Waynette K.Y. Cabral  
Executive Administrator

Handwritten signature of Rosie Rowe in black ink.

Rosie Rowe  
Chair

DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICES  
**CITY & COUNTY OF HONOLULU**  
DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLE, LICENSING AND PERMITS  
ADMINISTRATION  
P.O. BOX 30300  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96820-0300

MUFI HANNEMANN  
MAYOR



GAIL Y. HARAGUCHI  
DIRECTOR

DENNIS A KAMIMURA  
LICENSING ADMINISTRATOR

February 2, 2010

The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
and Committee Members  
Committee on Health  
House of Representatives  
State of Hawaii  
State Capitol, Room 441  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Yamane and Committee Members:

Subject: H.B. No. 1859 HD1, Relating to Funding For Parking For Disabled Persons

The City and County of Honolulu has no objections to H.B. No. 1859 HD1 which will require the addition of \$1 to the State registration fee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gail Y. Haraguchi".

Handwritten initials "for" in black ink, positioned to the left of the typed name.

Gail Y. Haraguchi  
Director



## 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 5, 2010

### TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

#### House Bill 1859, HD1 - Relating to Funding for Parking for Disabled Persons

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) strongly supports House Bill 1859, HD1 to amend Section 249-31, Hawaii Revised Statutes, increasing the motor vehicle registration fee by \$1 to pay for the parking program for persons with disabilities. DCAB is the State agency responsible for the overall coordination and administration of this federally required program.

The parking program consists of a centralized, Internet-based database operated by DCAB staff, issuance of the placards by the counties at twenty-two (22) locations, and accessed by law enforcement personnel. In FY 2009, 33,212 placards were issued. DCAB expects the number to increase to 38,216 for current FY 2010. A total of 73,817 individuals held active placards as of June 2009. DCAB also conducts quality assurance by cross-referencing death records, sending out reminder notices, retrieving, destroying, and shredding 9,245 placards in FY 2009.

The program currently is 100% general funded. The central costs are approximately \$288,774 for supplies (purchasing placards, decals, identification card stock, application forms, operation of the central database, and central staff). The program currently consists of the issuance of the permits by the counties at a cost of \$397,764 in FY 2009. We expect the FY 2010 costs to the counties to be a minimum of \$458,592 based upon projections for this year.

Given the aging of our population and the projected increase in the number of people who are eligible for placards, the program will be a financial drain on the general fund. This bill proposes to create a revenue stream from the motor vehicle registration fee with a modest assessment of \$1 on the motor vehicles. We believe that this nominal increase will ensure the continued existence of this program in a manner that ensures quality and integrity of the program and not detract from the general fund. This bill also amends Section 348F-7 to change the use of the DCAB Special Fund to allow the receipt and expenditure of the money. DCAB has spoken with the counties to ensure that this is administratively feasible, although have been cautioned that projected income should not be counted upon for six (6) months.

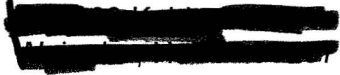
We strongly urge your passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important issue.

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES FLEMING  
Chairperson  
Legislative Committee

FRANCINE WAI  
Executive Director

Mark T. Obatake  


February 5, 2010

The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Health  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Honored Chair Yamane, Vice-Chair Nishimoto, and Committee Members:

As a person with a chronic disability, I strongly recommend the passage of HB 1859 HD1, Relating To Funding For Parking For Disabled Persons. The bill ensures that the State of Hawaii disability parking placard program will have the necessary funds to continue services for citizens with disabilities.

The Americans With Disabilities Act was a landmark federal legislation passed in 1990, which secured the rights of people with disabilities to have equal access and opportunities in our country. I have seen the changes in the every day life of people with disabilities from first-hand accounts and as a previous professional in the field of human services. There were so many obstacles growing up as a child in Hawaii. My parents had to do almost everything for me. However, I currently live independently with my wife and sons today due largely to the access in the community provided by the law. I need to use a powered wheelchair, which means that a modified van gets me from place to place. The accessible parking stalls are specifically designed to provide access, so that I am able to exit my vehicle. Without these stalls and without the administration of the placard program, my ability to live in the community would be severely hampered.

HB 1859 HD1 establishes a funding mechanism that is tied to vehicle registration. The amount per vehicle is negligible and is logical in connecting vehicle registration to a vehicle utilization issue. In these economic times, where the State is unable to generate dollars for its general fund, HB 1859 provides the means to (1) assist the State's growing population of citizens with disabilities and (2) fulfill the State's own mandate to administer the disability parking program.

It is my hope that your committee will pass HB 1859 HD1. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark T. Obatake

TO: House Committee on Health  
Friday, Feb. 5, 2010 at 9:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 329

FROM: Kirby L. Shaw

SUBJ: HB 1859, HD1 - RELATING TO FUNDING FOR PARKING FOR DISABLED PERSONS

Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice-Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health  
Kirby L. Shaw – Individual with a disability, parking placard holder  
Friday, February 5, 2010

Support for HB 1859, HD1 - Relating to Funding for Parking for Disabled Persons

Dear Health Committee,

I am an individual with a disability who uses a power wheelchair. I have a van that deploys a ramp from the passenger side of the vehicle. I need to park my van in a parking space reserved for persons with disabilities that provides an adjacent access aisle. Because I have a parking placard, I am able to use such parking spaces. Thus, HB 1859, HD1 Relating to Funding for Parking for Disabled Persons, is of significant interest to me.

**I am writing to express strong support for HB 1859, HD1.** The bill raises the annual motor vehicle registration fee by \$1 for deposit into the Disability and Communication Access Board special fund to cover the costs of administering the disability parking program under Chapter 291, Part III, HRS.

The parking placard affords me and others with disabilities who require either an access aisle to deploy a mobility device or close proximity to a facility's entrance the ability to conduct business, grocery shop, visit the doctor, see a movie, dine at a restaurant, and attend community meetings, etc. Thus, it is important that the parking program remain intact and adequately funded to allow persons with disabilities to generate economic activity and to participate in society.

Raising the annual registration fee by \$1 for each motor vehicle is a nominal amount to ensure that the disability parking program continues to give persons with disabilities the ability to generate economic activity and to participate in society. In light of the current State budget shortfall and looking toward the future, an eventual, fully funded special fund for the disability parking program would provide a stable funding source to foster desirable economic activity and societal participation by persons with disabilities. Significantly, the special fund for the disability parking program would result in savings to the General Fund.

Therefore, **I urge the committee to support this bill.** Thank you for considering my testimony. Please contact me by mail, e-mail, or phone if you have any questions. Mahalo nui.

Sincerely,

/s/  
KIRBY L. SHAW

PETER L. FRITZ

**THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2010**

**COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

**Hearing February 5, 2010  
Testimony on H.B. 1859 HD 1  
(Relating to Funding For Parking for Disabled Persons)**

Chair Yamane, Vice-Chair Nishimoto and members of the Committee:

My name is Peter Fritz. I am testifying **in strong support** of H.B. 1859 HD 1.

The purpose of this bill is to help cover the costs of administering parking for persons with disabilities by increasing the annual vehicle registration fee by \$1, which will be deposited into the Disability and Communication Access Board Special Fund.

With the aging of the population and the projected increase in the number of individuals who are eligible for parking placards, the parking program for persons with disabilities will become a burden on the general fund. A nominal increase in the annual vehicle registration fee would place the cost upon the users and ensure the continuation of a quality parking program without draining general funds.

H.B. 1859 H.D. 1 incorporates the changes requested by the City and County of Honolulu to provide time to change the software in its computers by changing its effective date to November 1, 2010.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,



Peter L. Fritz

ART FRANK

FEBRUARY 5, 2010

**HB 1859, HD1 RELATIONG TO FUNDING FOR PARKING FOR DISABLED PERSONS**

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, RYAN I. YAMANE, CHAIR**

**FRIDAY FEBRUARY 5, 2010 9:30A.M., CONF, ROOM 329**

Good morning Chair Yamane and members of the House Committee on Health. My name is Art Frank and I have been a user of disabled parking for over 31 years in 1978. In all this time I've testified on dozens of bills regarding disabled parking. I've agreed with most bills but I recall once or twice when I knocked heads with my friend Francine Wai of DCAB because I strongly disagreed with her bill (s).

However, after questioning and discussing this measure with DCAB staff I support it 100% because I'm afraid without proper funding, we the user of the program will be [REDACTED]. Let me explain why I'm concerned. Back in 1978 when I received my first placard I don't recall having an expiration date. I had the same card until such time as the new program was turned over from the Dept of Transportation (DOT) to the Commission on Persons with Disabilities (DCAB's predecessor). The reason the legislature did this is because we the disabled had many complaints about the mass confusion of the Disabled Parking Program under the DOT. Since there was no expiration date on placards there were probably thousands of cards still out there being used from disabled persons who had died. We saw too many able bodied persons using placards with no expiration dates. Once the DCAB took over and organized the program we knew we could always depend on DCAB if we needed help or had questions. With the DOT this wasn't always the case, believe me. As an example, about a month or two before this session started there was an article in Kokua Line regarding three persons, ohana of disabled persons who were frustrated and in one case angry because of problems with disabled parking with the HPD. I sent an email to DCAB suggesting maybe we need to make a change to the law to resolve this problem in Kokua Line. I received an email back saying Francine said no change is necessary because the problem is already covered. She had Charlotte her assistant advising Kokua Line exactly what the rules were, and, knowing how efficient Francine is, I'm certain someone in HPD was advised how to correct the bum information out there. I want to assure this committee that DCAB is doing a great job for us with the Disabled Parking Program and everything else they do for us. I know because I've been on Francine's back for 30 years watching her ever since I first met her when she worked in a broom closet on King and Richard's street in the Kamamalu Bldg I think. I ask for your support with this extra dollar to fund the program so DCAB can continue to support us efficiently and effectively. Mahalo nio loa for your kokua.



ART FRANK

User of Disabled Parking

For over 31 years.

To: House Committee on Health  
From: Lynn Murakami-Akatsuka  
Date & Time of Hearing: February 5, 2010 at 9:30 AM  
Measure Number: HB 1859, HD 1  
Position: Relating to Funding for Parking for Disabled Persons  
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT


I strongly support House Bill 1859, HD1 to amend Section 249-31, Hawaii Revised Statutes, increasing the motor vehicle registration fee by \$1 to pay for the parking program for persons with disabilities. I am a handicap placard user.

The program currently is 100% general funded. As a proactive effort to address increased costs to cover supplies to produce the placards, the operations to maintain the central database and central staff in conjunction with the issuance of the permits by the counties, the bill proposes a nominal fee of \$1 to the registration fee. This is to ensure the continued existence of this program, make it self-sufficient, and will maintain the quality and integrity of the program for Hawaii resident users who are disabled or will become disabled in their aging years.

This bill also amends Section 348F-7 to change the use of the DCAB Special Fund to allow the receipt and expenditure of the money.

I strongly urge your passage of this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Lynn Murakami-Akatsuka