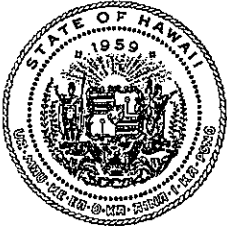


SB 2927



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

LINDA LINGLE
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Statement of
THEODORE E. LIU
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
**SENATE COMMITTEES ON
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
AND
TRANSPORTATION AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS**
Tuesday, February 16, 2010
2:45 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225

in consideration of
SB 2927
RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION ENERGY INITIATIVES.

Chairs Gabbard and English, and Members of the Committees.

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) opposes SB 2927, which would change the electric vehicle parking provisions to apply to vehicles which would not be able to connect to the grid when parked.

Last session, Act 156 established provisions that allow parking spaces which are designated for electric vehicles to be reserved exclusively for electric vehicles.

There is a practical reason for this. The potential for electric vehicles to provide benefits to the electrical grid -- and to use excess renewable energy when available -- requires that the vehicles be plugged in whenever possible. They will not necessarily be using energy from the grid or providing energy to the grid, but by being connected to the grid, they are available to be part of the system.

If non-electric vehicles are parked in the electric vehicle spaces, the cost of establishing charging infrastructure will be several times greater, and the benefits of electric vehicles to Hawaii's grid – and to renewable energy providers – will be reduced or delayed.

This bill will be damaging to the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative, as it will send a mixed message to automobile manufacturers about Hawaii's commitment to being a leader in introducing electric vehicles, and would squander the natural advantages that Hawaii has for electric vehicles.

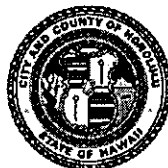
Therefore, we encourage you to hold this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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MUFI HANNEMANN
MAYOR



WAYNE Y. YOSHIOKA
DIRECTOR

SHARON THOM
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

February 13, 2010

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Energy and Environment
The Honorable J. Kalani English, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Transportation,
International and Intergovernmental Affairs
State Senate
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Gabbard, Chair English and Members:

Subject: Senate Bill No. 2927, Relating to Transportation Energy Initiatives

The City and County of Honolulu Department of Transportation Services (DTS) requests to amend Senate Bill 2927, which extends the current requirement that all public, private, and government parking facilities with at least 100 parking spaces to designate one percent of parking spaces exclusively for electric vehicles to Green Vehicles (G-vehicles) as well.

We request the following changes:

1. Page three, lines 4 through 5, restore the definition of electric vehicle and neighborhood electric vehicle;
2. Page three, delete lines 18 through 21; and
3. Page four, delete lines 1 through 15.

The purpose of this request is to restore the definition of electric vehicle as defined in the current statute. This bill focuses on adding a Green Vehicle definition to the statute and, therefore, the definition of electric vehicles is not a function of proposed S.B. 2927.

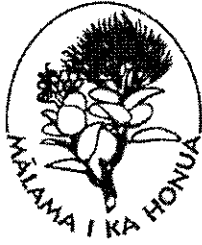
We believe the amended S.B. 2927 promotes greater utilization of G-vehicles as well as electric vehicles and is a positive step in a more sustainable environment

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our testimony.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wayne Y. Yoshioka". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Wayne Y. Yoshioka
Director



Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

PO Box 2577, Honolulu, HI 96803
808.538.6616 hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, INTERNATIONAL AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

February 16, 2010, 2:45 P.M.
(*Testimony is 1 page long*)

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 2927

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair English, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawai'i Chapter of the Sierra Club opposes SB 2927, which proposes to modify last year's historic act requiring large parking lots to designate parking spaces and charging stations for electrical vehicles. While we support the use of hybrid vehicles, the inclusion of hybrid vehicles in this act would overreach and eliminate some of the prior intent, to wit, to increase the number of vehicles that require *no* fossil fuels to run.

Last year, this legislature recognized the limited geography of Hawai'i makes it an ideal location for electric vehicles. Most commutes are well within an electric vehicles capacity, thus eliminating the need for a gas powered engine (as is included in a hybrid vehicle). Moreover, electrical vehicles are silent, create no air pollution, and need little maintenance. No tune ups, oil changes, or radiator repairs are necessary (these items simply don't exist on an electrical car).

The intent of last year's bill was not only to encourage the adoption of electrical vehicles, but to solve the "chicken or the egg" problem of not having a means to charge electrical vehicles away from home. No such rationale exists with hybrid vehicles.

By expanding the reach of the bill to require dedicated parking spaces for hybrids, we believe the effectiveness of last year's act will be reduced. Further, we note the Federal Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards already require an average fuel economy standard of 35.5 mpg in 2016.¹ This measure would incentivize lower threshold, to wit fuel efficiency standards of 35 mpg. We shouldn't aim so low.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

¹ See http://www.biodieselmagazine.com/article.jsp?article_id=3493.