

HB 1241,  
HD2

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

PETER B. CARLISLE  
MAYOR



GAIL Y. HARAGUCHI  
DIRECTOR

DENNIS A KAMIMURA  
LICENSING ADMINISTRATOR

March 16, 2011

The Honorable J. Kalani English, Chair  
and Committee Members  
Committee on Transportation and  
International Affairs  
The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
and Committee Members  
Committee on Commerce and  
Consumer Protection  
The Senate  
State of Hawaii  
State Capitol, Room 205  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair English, Chair Baker and Committee Members:

Subject: H.B. No. 1241 HD2, Relating to Abandoned Vehicles

The City and County of Honolulu is opposed to H.B. No. 1241 HD2 which adds more time for a registered vehicle owner with an out-of-state address to claim a towed abandoned vehicle before the vehicle may be auctioned.

Based on the current statutorily required investigation, owner notification, and auction publication requirements, the earliest that an abandoned vehicle will be auction is approximately 23 calendar days after the vehicle had been marked as an abandoned vehicle (goldenrod notice placed on the vehicle's windshield and tires marked). We believe that a minimum of 23 calendar days is sufficient time for a vehicle owner to notice that the vehicle is being investigated as an abandoned vehicle and begin an inquiry with the Honolulu Police Department after the vehicle had been towed from where it was parked. Additionally, if the vehicle owner had provided the motor vehicle office a correct mailing address, the owner would have received the certified mailing. Adding 10 working days before an unclaimed towed abandoned vehicle is auctioned will place an unnecessary burden on the City's tow contractors' limited storage facilities.

The City and County of Honolulu recommends that H.B. No. 1241 HD2 be held.

Sincerely,

  
Gail Y. Haraguchi  
Director

**H.B. 1241, H.D. 2**  
**Relating to Abandoned Vehicles**  
**Hearing: Monday, March 21, 2011 at 1:15 p.m.**  
**Conference Room 224**

Chairs English and Baker and Members of the Committees:

I am **Paul Kopel**, General Manager/Vice President—Hawaii, testifying on behalf of **EAN Holdings, LLC**, operating Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Alamo Rent-A-Car and National Car Rental in Hawaii (collectively referred to as “Enterprise”).

Enterprise **supports H.B. 1241, H.D. 2**. Currently, Hawai‘i law provides a 10-day window for repossession by the legal and registered owner of an abandoned vehicle. H.B. 1241, H.D. 2 extends this period to 20 business days. This is a companion to S.B. 30, S.D. 1, which you introduced and passed out of your committees.

This measure would establish a more reasonable time within which legal and registered owners may recover their vehicles that are registered out-of-state and have been towed away after being classified as “abandoned.” Sometimes, lessees and renters mistreat or “abandon” rentals, and a 10-day window is not enough time for the rental car companies to be assured they can recover their vehicles.

When this bill was heard in House Transportation, there was testimony requesting a compromise that the 20-day window apply only to vehicles registered in other states. H.B. 1241 was amended to provide that, “in the case where the address of the registered owner on record at the vehicle licensing division is an out-of-state address,” the legal and registered owner will be sent a notice informing it of the intended disposition of the vehicle if not repossessed within “twenty business days after the mailing of the notice.” Enterprise supports H.B. 1241, H.D. 2.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



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Testimony to the Senate Committee on Transportation and International Affairs and  
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Testimony in support of HB 1241 HD2, Relating to Abandoned Vehicles

To: The Honorable J. Kalani English, Chair  
The Honorable Will Espero, Vice-Chair  
Members of the Committee on Transportation and International Affairs

The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
The Honorable Brian Taniguchi, Vice-Chair  
Members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

My name is Stefanie Sakamoto, and I am testifying on behalf of the Hawaii Credit Union League, the local trade association for 85 Hawaii credit unions, representing approximately 810,000 credit union members across the state.

HB 1241 HD2, Relating to Abandoned Vehicles would extend the time period during which the legal and registered owner of an abandoned vehicle may repossess the vehicle before it may be subject to disposal, if the owner resides out-of-state. This would give the financier of an abandoned vehicle more time to contact the borrower, in the event that the abandoned vehicle was financed with a loan. While we prefer that the time period be extended to both out-of-state and in-state owners, we support the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.