

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



GLENN M. OKIMOTO  
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors  
FORD N. FUCHIGAMI  
JAN S. GOUVEIA  
RANDY GRUNE  
JADINE URASAKI

IN REPLY REFER TO:

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

February 25, 2011

TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

HOUSE BILL NO. 916

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Department of Transportation supports HB 916, relating to parking for persons with disabilities. This bill will amend Section 249-31, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to increase motor vehicle registration fees by \$1.00 to offset the cost to pay for the parking placard program for persons with disabilities.

The Department of Transportation feels this fee is reasonable, and supports it because it will help defray the costs of running the program to continue to serve the disabled community. Rather than being 100% funded from the general fund, the placard-parking program will be supported by the new revenue source created from the \$1.00 increase in motor vehicle registrations. This new funding source will help to ensure the parking program continues to exist to provide the quality level of service.

The bill will also amend Section 348F-7 to allow the Director of Transportation to deposit \$1.00 into the accessible parking special account. The Department has no objections to collecting the fees and transferring the money to the special account within Disability and Communication Access Board and the Department of Health as we already handle a similar transaction for the emergency medical services fund.

We defer to DCAB regarding financial implications of the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



## 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 25, 2011

### TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

#### House Bill 916 - Relating to Funding for Parking for Disabled Persons

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) strongly supports House Bill 916 to amend §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 is managed through a centralized, Internet-based database operated by DCAB staff. DCAB enters into memorandums of agreement with the Counties to issue first time and replacement placards on a walk-in basis at satellite city halls. The renewals are issued through a mail-in process by the DCAB office.

The program currently is one hundred percent general funded with the exception of a small percentage of temporary or replacement placards issued for which the user pays a nominal fee of \$12. This bill would finance the program through a new source of revenue in lieu of 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 vehicle registration fee. 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 tap into valuable, limited general funds. This bill also amends §348F-7 to change the use of the DCAB Special Fund to allow the receipt and expenditure of the money. DCAB has discussed this with the counties to ensure that it is administratively feasible, as well as the State Department of Transportation to ensure that they can transfer the money collected to the Department of Health. We have assurances of support in this regard. The bill will not take effect until January 2012 to allow the Counties to reprogram computers and readjust the collection of the motor vehicle registration fees.

We understand that there may be a concern that all motor vehicle owners should not pay for this program. However, we feel that this is appropriate. The program is primarily paid for from the general fund; this would narrow the scope of financial burden to those who have vehicles. Because the placard is transferable to any vehicle and only vehicles can park in accessible parking stalls, this program actually benefits all vehicle owners who potentially can transport a person with a placard. This is a more appropriate financing mechanism than the general fund.

Should this bill pass, DCAB commits to reducing the cost of the program in its general fund appropriation in the subsequent fiscal year beginning July 1, 2012. We ask that you not make any adjustments to DCAB's budget this year, as program expenses will not be moved to, nor charged against, the Special Fund until July 1, 2012.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

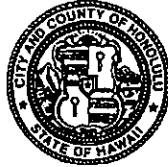
Respectfully submitted,

*Barbara Fischlowitz-Leong*  
BARBARA FISCHLOWITZ-LEONG  
Chairperson  
Legislative Committee

*Francine Wai*  
FRANCINE WAI  
Executive Director

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

February 23, 2011

The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair  
and Committee Members  
Committee on Finance  
House of Representatives  
State of Hawaii  
State Capitol, Room 306  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Oshiro and Committee Members:

Subject: H.B. No. 916, Relating to Funding For Parking For Disabled Persons

The City and County of Honolulu has no objections to H.B. No. 916 which will require the addition of \$1 to the State registration fee to be deposited into the Accessible Parking Special Account. This fee will provide the necessary funds for DCAB to reimburse the counties for issuance of disabled persons placards and identification cards.

Sincerely,

  
Gail Y. Haraguchi  
Director

## **FINTestimony**

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**From:** C.Fleming/ M. Lu [kahuna00@hawaiiintel.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 24, 2011 4:59 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Subject:** HB 916 RELATING TO FUNDING FOR PARKING FOR DISABLED PERSONS.

**To: Honorable Members: House Committee on Finance.**

**I am writing to express my support for passage of this bill. As a wheelchair user who must drive a modified van requiring an accessible parking space with adjoining access aisle, the blue handicapped placard is essential to my functioning independently. Without it I could not gain access to**

**shopping facilities, doctors offices and clinics, county and state offices, voting places, educational and other facilities such as those places in which I volunteer. This bill assures the funding necessary to continue providing placards to people with disabilities who need them.**

**It provides for an increase of one dollar in car registration fees to be funded to the Disability and Communication Access Board, not only to provide the placards, but also to operate the data collection system needed to track them and prevent abuses such as replication, misusing placards by non disabled friends/relatives, purloining placards of the deceased or fraudulently obtaining duplicates from county agencies.**

**The cost is minimal, does not impact the General Fund and will in the long run save the State money because people who can not**

**function independently must rely on social services such as attendants and shoppers. And because Federal Law mandates that the states provide parking placards, Hawaii's failure to fund such a program could result in significant litigation costs.**

**Finally, some severely disabled people can maintain employment only because they can drive their modified vehicles to work and park nearby.**

**Needless to say, their loss of employment would result in even more social and financial costs to the taxpayer.**

**This bill should be enacted into law because it's needed and makes sense.**

**Thank you.**

**Charles W. Fleming  
75-310 W. Kakalina Pl.  
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740-1901  
Tel# (808) 326-4708**

## FINTestimony

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**m:** lkakatsu@hawaii.rr.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 23, 2011 6:17 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB 916 on 2/25/2011 at 3:00 PM

Testimony for Committee on Finance, 2/25/2011 at 3:00 PM

Conference room: 308  
Testifier position: Strongly support  
Testifier will be present: NO  
Submitted by: Lynn Murakami-Akatsuka  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 45-606 Keole Street; Kaneohe, HI 96744  
E-mail: [lkakatsu@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:lkakatsu@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 2/23/2011

Comments: This bill will help to cover the costs of administering parking for persons with disabilities by increasing the annual vehicle registration fee by \$1. the funds will be deposited into an Accessible Parking Special Account. 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.

I am in strong support of HB 916. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

## FINTestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 25, 2011 10:56 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** swartzg001@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB916 on 2/25/2011 3:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/25/2011 3:00:00 PM HB916

Conference room: 308  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: gregory swartz  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [swartzg001@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:swartzg001@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 2/25/2011

### Comments:

There is no enforcement of this program at all. The eligibility in the statute for receiving a permit is unclear. Doctors sign off on applications for people who are not qualified. There is no verification. Placards are abused by non-disabled persons including commercial vehicles and construction workers transporting heavy materials, taxi drivers, pregnant women, and young people. Vehicles without placards or license plates are constantly parking in disabled parking places. Nobody ever challenges the drivers (or occupants) to produce a valid disabled parking card. The only reason I bring this up is that \$1 per vehicle does not seem adequate to fund a realistic program, particularly since administrative costs are not defined. Does this include costs of installing disabled parking spaces on public property? Does this include costs for police enforcement?

This is a good bill but needs further work and analysis.