

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

March 22, 2011

TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

HOUSE BILL NO. 916

COMMITTEE(S) ON HUMAN SERVICES
AND
TRANSPORTATION AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

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

March 22, 2011

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON HUMAN SERVICES AND TRANSPORTATION AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

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

March 16, 2011

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
and Committee Members
Committee on Human Services
The Honorable J. Kalani English, Chair
Committee on Transportation and
International Affairs
The Senate
State of Hawaii
State Capitol, Room 226
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Chun Oakland, Chair English 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,


for Gail Y. Haraguchi
Director

PETER L. FRITZ
414 KUWILI STREET, #104
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814
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THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2011
COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
and
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Hearing date: March 22, 2011
Testimony on H.B. 916
(Relating To Funding For Parking For Disabled Persons)

Chair English and Chun Oakland, Vice-Chair Espero and Ihara, and members of the Committees, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 916.

My name is Peter L. Fritz. I am an attorney, an individual with a disability and the current Chair of the Disability and Communications Access Board ("DCAB").

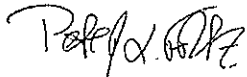
This bill would create an Accessible Parking Special Account within the Disability and Communication Access Board Special Fund. It would be funded by increasing the state vehicle registration fee by \$1. This amount would be deposited into the Accessible Parking Special Account. All costs associated with the statewide Parking Program for Persons with Disabilities would be paid from the Accessible Parking Special Account beginning July 1, 2012. General funds would no longer be needed to fund the parking program or disabled persons after July 1, 2012.

DCAB is the State agency responsible for the overall coordination and administration of this federally required program. 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. The cost of the program currently comes from general funds.

I support this bill for the following reasons:

- This bill would 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.
- It is appropriate for the cost of the program to be paid by motor vehicle owners because the placards are issued to motor vehicle owners. The placards are transferable to any vehicle and only vehicles can park in accessible parking stalls. This program benefits all vehicle owners who potentially can transport a person with a placard.

Respectfully submitted,



Peter L. Fritz

TO: Senate Committee on Human Services
Senate Committee on Transportation and International Affairs
Tuesday, Mar. 22, 2011 at 1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 016

FROM: Kirby L. Shaw
425 Ena Road, #706-A, Honolulu, HI 96815
kirby@hawaiiantel.net, 944-0828

SUBJ: HB 916 - RELATING TO FUNDING FOR PARKING FOR DISABLED PERSONS

Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation and International Affairs
Kirby L. Shaw – Individual with a disability, parking placard holder
Sunday, March 20, 2011

RE: Support for HB 916 - Relating to Funding for Parking for Disabled Persons

Dear Human Services Committee and Transportation and International Affairs Committee,

I have a physical disability and I use a power wheelchair. I have a van that deploys a ramp from its passenger side so I can easily enter/exit. However, I need to park in a parking space reserved for persons with disabilities that provides an adjacent access aisle to deploy the ramp. Because I have a parking placard, I am able to use such parking spaces. Thus, HB 916, Relating to Funding for Parking for Disabled Persons, is of significant interest to me.

I am writing to express strong support for HB 916. 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 HRS Ch. 291, Pt. III.

The parking placard allows qualified persons with mobility impairments to park in parking spaces reserved for persons with disabilities; which provide (1) an adjacent space (access aisle) to deploy a mobility device (wheelchair, walker, etc.) and (2) a close distance to a facility's entrance for those with difficulty moving under their own power. Reserved spaces afford me and others with physical disabilities the opportunity to conduct business, buy groceries, see a movie at a theater, dine at a restaurant, buy tools at the hardware store, etc. The ability to park and exit/enter my vehicle removes a significant barrier that would otherwise prevent me and others from entering the types of transactions noted above.

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. **Importantly, the proposed special fund would provide a stable funding source for the disability parking program and result in savings to the General Fund.**

Therefore, **I urge the committees to support this bill.** Thank you for considering my testimony. Mahalo nui.

Sincerely,

/s/
KIRBY L. SHAW

ChunOakland2 - Tyrell

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2011 3:08 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: Tlenzer@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB916 on 3/22/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for HMS/TIA 3/22/2011 1:15:00 PM HB916

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Anthony Lenzer, Ph.D
Organization:
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: Tlenzer@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 3/20/2011

Comments:
Chairs Chun Oakland and English, and members of the Committees:

My name is Anthony Lenzer. I am a member of several senior advocacy groups, and also a member of the Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB), where I serve on the Board's Parking Committee. Thus, I have had a first-hand opportunity to observe the operation of the parking placard and license plate operation. This is an extremely valuable program for those, whom like myself, have a disability and use their placards on a daily basis. DCAB's program, in my opinion, is very efficiently run, and I am impressed with the way in which the small DCAB staff manages the large volume of work which this program requires.

I am testifying on behalf of the Board, in strong support of HB 916, the purpose of which is to add a \$1 charge to the motor vehicle registration fee to finance the disabled parking program. This program is now paid for through the State's general fund. Adding a modest \$1 to the registration fee will hardly be noticed by vehicle owners. For example, I recently paid over \$300 to register one of my cars. More importantly, the fee system will help reduce demand on the general fund, at a time when the State faces a huge budget deficit. I know this is a matter of great concern to every member of the Legislature, and to the Administration.

I therefore ask you to support HB 916, and thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important legislation.

ChunOakland2 - Tyrell

From: lkakatsu@hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2011 3:59 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: Testimony for HB 916 on 3/22/2011 at 1:15 PM

Testimony for Committees on Human Services and Transportation and International Affairs,
3/22/2011 at 1:15 PM

Conference room: 016
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
Submitted on: 3/17/2011

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 within the DCAB 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 the general funds.

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

ChunOakland2 - Tyrell

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2011 2:24 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: swartzg001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB916 on 3/22/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for HMS/TIA 3/22/2011 1:15:00 PM HB916

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: gregory swartz
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: swartzg001@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 3/16/2011

Comments:

I fully support funding of a program to administer and enforce disabled parking rights. However, the language in the new Section to be added to HRS Chapter 291 and stating that "all costs associated with the statewide parking program" shall be funded by the registration assessment is unclear. This could range from costs of police enforcement to the costs of installing disabled parking spaces on public property. The same problem exists with the new HRS Section 348F-A (b) provision stating that "costs to administer the statewide parking program" shall come from the new fund. In addition, the \$1.00 surcharge for the "accessible parking special account" is totally insufficient unless it applies only to issuance of placards and ID cards. Who pays for special license plates?