

From: Ann Lemke [ann.lemke@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2012 7:41 AM
To: TRNtestimony
Subject: testimony against HB2104

Esteemed Committee Members,

Speaking as a totally blind person myself, I do not support any legislation that would grant blind persons the right to apply for and obtain a disabled parking permit on the basis of blindness. The condition of blindness does not make it difficult for us to walk from a far parking place to the business or agency we are wishing to visit.

On the other hand, as the population in general ages, there will be increasing numbers of people who really have medical restrictions on walking and who very much need preferential parking privileges. Blind people can learn to travel after exiting a vehicle safely with a cane or a guide dog or using "sighted guide" techniques for walking with a sighted person. We don't need this legislation which tends to contribute to a negative image of the capabilities of blind people.

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**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2012 AT 9:00 A.M. IN Room 309**

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL # 2104, HOUSE DRAFT 1 RELATED TO PARKING FOR DISABLED PERSONS

Aloha, Chair Joseph Souki, Vice-Chair Linda Ichiyama,, and Members of House Committee on Transportation;

My name is Francine Mae Lehuanani Aona Kenyon, I myself am deaf with limited mobility disability and hold the handicapped parking permit.

I strongly oppose House Bill No. 2104, House Draft 1, Related to Parking for Disabled Persons, authorizing blind and visually impaired to apply and obtain disability parking permits because of three good reasons: (1) Limitations; (2) Cost; and (3) Population.

I can understand why blind and visually impaired people with limited mobility disability want disability parking permits but they do not drive the cars. It does not really solve the realistic problem. Why? I, too, get jump up, scared, by the uncaring drivers rushing out of the parking lot or backing out of the parking and honking at me, while walking on the crutches or riding on my travel scooter to my car on the parking lot. We do have the same problem as anyone, no what. I feel that blind and visually impaired people don't really need the disability parking placards just because of their safety and limited mobility disability.

There are not many handicapped parking spaces everywhere on this small island or on neighboring islands so it would be very difficult for anyone with limited mobility disability to find available disability parking spaces.

Disability parking permits are expensive so can we afford to pay for more placards in order to be given to blind and visually impaired?? Hawaii is small and does not have much revenues like those states on the mainland. They have MORE land and MORE revenues than Hawaii. Population among people with disabilities are so overwhelmingly huge so the disability parking spaces are very limited on many parking lots everywhere. Some disability parking spaces are farther from the stores.