

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 6, 20121

The Honorable Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
and Committee Members
Committee on Judiciary
House of Representatives
State of Hawaii
State Capitol, Room 302
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran and Committee Members:

Subject: H.B. No. 2589 HD1, Relating to Vessels

The City and County of Honolulu is opposed to H.B. No. 2589 HD1, which will remove the Department of Land and Natural Resources' responsibility for towing abandoned vessels from public streets.

The counties are responsible for investigation and removal of abandoned and derelict vehicles from public roadways. Since the counties have access to the registered owner information of all such vehicles, we are able to complete the legally required notification and disposal of such towed vehicles pursuant to Chapter 290, HRS. The cost for removal and disposal of derelict vehicles are funded through the collection of the Highway Beautification fee that is collected together with the annual motor vehicle registration taxes and fees. If the vessel removal responsibility is transferred to the counties, the Highway Beautification fee cannot be used for removal of vessels unless Section 286-51(b), HRS, is amended.

There is no specific statutory authority for the counties to obtain vessel information that is maintained by the DLNR and United States Coast Guard to declare a vessel as being abandoned. If this bill passes, we recommend that the bill be amended to provide online access to DLNR's vessel registration information and authorize access to the United States Coast Guard on behalf of the State of Hawaii. We require online access to meet the notice requirement pursuant to Section 200-42, HRS.

The Honorable Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
and Committee Members
February 6, 2012
Page 2

Since this is a new mandate that was previously the responsibility of the State, we recommend the bill be further amended with the addition of an unspecified amount for the counties to administer this new program and a source of revenue for the funding of continuing future abandoned vessel removal operations.

Lastly, we recommend that the effective date of the bill be amended to July 1, 2013 so that the counties will have sufficient time to negotiate abandoned and derelict vessel tow contracts, establish online connectivity to retrieve vessel registration information, and for training of county inspectors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis A. Kamimura".

Dennis A. Kamimura
Licensing Administrator



Ocean Tourism Coalition

The Voice for Hawaii's Ocean Tourism Industry
1188 Bishop St., Ste. 1003
Honolulu, HI 96813-3304
(808) 537-4308 Phone (808) 533-2739 Fax
timlyons@hawaiiantel.net

Testimony to the Committee on Judiciary
Tuesday, February 7, 2012, 2:00 pm
Conference Room 325

Speaking in Support

RE: HB 2589 HD1

Chair Representative Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Representative Karl Rhoads, and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is James E. Coon, President of the Ocean Tourism Coalition. The OTC represents over 300 small ocean tourism businesses state wide. We appreciate the efforts being made by the Legislature in addressing the problem of derelict vessels whether on State, County or Private Property, and who has the legal responsibility to dispose of these vessels.

We believe this bill will go a long way in resolving this issue.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. If you have any questions, please contact me at 808-870-9115.

Sincerely,

James E. Coon, President