



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

919 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 101 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
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February 7, 2011

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

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 3, 2011

The Honorable Joseph M. Souki, Chair
and Committee Members
Committee on Transportation
House of Representatives
State of Hawaii
State Capitol, Room 426
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Souki 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.

The City and County of Honolulu urges your favorable action on H.B. No. 916.

Sincerely,


for Gail Y. Haraguchi
Director

ichiyama3 - Cu Ri

From: C.Fleming/ M. Lu [kahuna00@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Thursday, February 03, 2011 2:27 PM
To: TRNtestimony
Subject: House Bill 916 Relating to Funding for Parking for Disabled Persons

Honorable House Members,

I'm writing to express my support for this bill which is scheduled to be heard Monday Feb, 7th at 9:00 a.m. in room 2011. I am a resident of Kailua-Kona with a disability that requires my use of a wheelchair and an especially modified van. The van deploys a 5' lift from the passenger side necessitating a handicapped parking space with the ADA adjoining specified access aisle. Without the availability of accessible parking and the blue placard allowing me to use it, I could not function independently in the community. I could not visit medical and dental facilities, shop, use public facilities, e.g. libraries and polling places, carry on volunteer work or meet my other day to day obligations. For all this, the state issued placard is essential.

This bill , if enacted, would assure funding for the Disability and Communication Access Board to continue to disseminate the placard. It would also provide for the data collection and monitoring process necessary to track placards to guard against misuse and counterfeiting. I'm sure you are aware of the monetary value of a purloined placard or copy that might be sold for use in an area with limited or expensive public parking such as some high density places in Honolulu. In short, this State must continue to ensure that placards are available to disabled drivers who need them as is required by federal law and must also make sure that placards are used by the properly authorized disabled user. This bill accomplishes these functions and does so with a minimal user fee assessed on driver's license renewal, obviating the need for any expenditure of General Fund revenues. Please move the bill forward.

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

ichiyama3 - Cu Ri

From: Tony Lenzer [Tlenzer@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Friday, February 04, 2011 7:44 AM
To: TRNtestimony
Subject: House Bill 916 -Relating to Funding for Parking for Disabled Persons

Chairman Souki and Members of the Committee on Transportation:

My name is Anthony Lenzer. I am a retired Professor and former Director of the Center on Aging at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am also a member of the Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB), and currently serve on the Board's Parking Committee. In addition, I have a disability which qualifies me for use of a parking placard. I am thus able to see DCAB's parking program from the inside, where the work is done, and from the perspective of a placard user. From the user perspective, I can tell you that this is a really valuable program. I am also very impressed by the way in which the small DCAB staff manages the large volume of work which this program requires.

I am testifying today as an individual in strong support of HB 916, the purpose of which is to add a \$1 charge to the motor vehicle registration fee to finance this program. It is now funded 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. But this new funding system will help reduce demand on State general funds 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 as well as to the Administration.

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

Anthony Lenzer, Ph.D.