

SD30

Testimony

S.B. 30
Relating to Abandoned Vehicles
Hearing: Thursday, March 3, 2011 at 10:00 a.m., Room 016

Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am Paul Kopel, General Manager/Vice President—Hawaii, testifying on behalf of EAN Holdings, LLC, operating Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Alamo Rent-A-Car and National Car Rental in Hawaii (collectively referred to as “Enterprise”).

Enterprise **supports** SB 30, which extends to 20 business days the time period during which the legal and registered owner of an abandoned vehicle may repossess the vehicle before it may be subject to disposal. Currently, Hawai‘i law provides a 10-day window for repossession by the legal and registered owner of an abandoned vehicle.

SB 30 would establish a more practicable timeframe within which certain vehicle owners like Enterprise may recover vehicles that have been towed away after being classified as “abandoned.” Enterprise owns many thousands of vehicles and does not have complete control over their treatment by lessees. Sometimes, lessees mistreat or “abandon” rentals, and a 10-day window is simply not enough time for Enterprise to be assured it can recover such vehicles.

Enterprise notes that when the same measure was heard in the House (H.B. 1241), there was testimony requesting a compromise – that the 20-day window apply only to mainland owners. H.B. 1241 was amended to provide that, “in the case where the address of the registered owner on record at the vehicle licensing division is an out-of-state address,” the legal and registered owner will be sent a notice informing it of the intended disposition of the vehicle if not repossessed within “twenty business days after the mailing of the notice.” Enterprise would support a similar amendment to S.B. 30.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.