

SB 30

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 2, 2011

The Honorable J. Kalani English, Chair
and Committee Members
Committee on Transportation and International Affairs
The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
The Senate
State of Hawaii
State Capitol, Room 205
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair English, Chair Baker and Committee Members:


Subject: S.B. No. 30, Relating to Abandoned Vehicles

The City and County of Honolulu is opposed to S.B. No. 30 which adds more time for the vehicle owner to claim a towed abandoned vehicle before the vehicle may be auctioned.

Based on the current statutorily required investigation, owner notification, and auction publication requirements, the earliest that an abandoned vehicle will be auction is approximately 23 calendar days after the vehicle had been marked as an abandoned vehicle (goldenrod notice placed on the vehicle's windshield and tires marked). We believe that a minimum of 23 calendar days is sufficient time for a vehicle owner to notice that the vehicle is being investigated as an abandoned vehicle and begin an inquiry with the Honolulu Police Department after the vehicle had been towed from where it was parked. Additionally, if the vehicle owner had provided the motor vehicle office a correct mailing address, the owner would have received the certified mailing. Adding 10 working days before an unclaimed towed abandoned vehicle is auctioned will place an unnecessary burden on the City's tow contractors' limited storage facilities.

The City and County of Honolulu recommends that S.B. No. 30 be held.

Sincerely,


for Gail Y. Haraguchi
Director



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Testimony to the Senate Committee on Transportation and International Affairs and
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Monday, February 7, 2011 at 1:15 p.m.

Testimony in support of SB 30, Relating to Abandoned Vehicles

To: The Honorable J. Kalani English, Chair
The Honorable Will Espero, Vice-Chair
Members of the Committee on Transportation and International Affairs

The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Brian Taniguchi, Vice-Chair
Members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

My name is Stefanie Sakamoto, and I am testifying on behalf of the Hawaii Credit Union League, the local trade association for 85 Hawaii credit unions, representing approximately 810,000 credit union members across the state.

SB 30, Relating to Abandoned Vehicles would extend 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. This would give the financier of an abandoned vehicle more time to contact the borrower, in the event that the abandoned vehicle was financed with a loan.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

S.B. 30
Relating to Abandoned Vehicles
Hearing: February 7, 2011 at 1:15 p.m., Room 224

Chairs English and Baker and Members of the Committees on Transportation and International Affairs and Commerce and Consumer Protection:

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** S.B. 30, which extends 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. This measure would lengthen this time period to 20 business days.

S.B. 30 would establish a more practicable timeframe within which vehicle owners 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” vehicles, and a 10 day window is simply not enough time for Enterprise to be assured it can recover such vehicles.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.