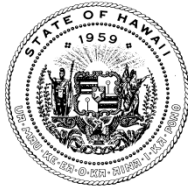


NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



Testimony of
GLENN M. OKIMOTO
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
FORD N. FUCHIGAMI
RANDY GRUNE
AUDREY HIDANO
JADINE URASAKI

IN REPLY REFER TO:

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

February 12, 2014
8:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 312

H.B. 1667, H.D.1
RELATING TO VETERANS

House Committee on Veterans, Military, & International Affairs, & Culture and the Arts

The Department of Transportation (DOT) appreciates veterans and respectfully recognizes the merits to reward their sacrifices for duty, honor and country. Lowering fees and charges and anything else that might be helpful to them would be a priority.

The DOT, however, **opposes** H.B. 1667, H.D.1 because it would have an adverse impact on fees that support the operations, maintenance, and construction of our highways.

This exemption for the state motor vehicle registration fee will reduce the revenues deposited into the State Highway Fund. The state vehicle registration fee accounted for 16.5 percent of the total State Highway Fund Revenues for fiscal year 2013 and is estimated to provide the same percentage for fiscal year 2014. Any proposed decrease would have a negative impact on the health of the State Highway Fund.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Roxanne Kamalu

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2014 11:04 AM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: mike.molina@co.maui.hi.us
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1667 on Feb 12, 2014 08:30AM*

HB1667

Submitted on: 2/10/2014

Testimony for VMI on Feb 12, 2014 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Molina	Mayor Alan M. Arakawa	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLE, LICENSING AND PERMITS
ADMINISTRATION
P.O. BOX 30300
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96820-0300

KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR



SHERI T. KAJIWARA
DIRECTOR

PRESTON P. H. K. KO
ACTING LICENSING ADMINISTRATOR

TESTIMONY OF PRESTON KO, ACTING LICENSING ADMINISTRATOR
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU, DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICES
Wednesday, February 12, 2014, 8:30 a.m., Conference Room 312

HOUSE Bill 1667 HD1, "RELATING TO Veterans"

Position: Comments

TO: The Honorable K. Mark Takai, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Veterans, Military and
International Affairs and Culture and The Arts

The City and County of Honolulu takes no position on H.B. No. 1667 HD1 which allows the exemption of the state motor vehicle registration fee for certain one hundred percent disabled veterans.

In order to implement this bill, various changes to the motor vehicle registration computer program will be required. We recommend that the effective date of this bill be amended to September 1, 2014.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on H.B. No. 1667 HD1.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Preston P. H. K. Ko". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Preston P. H. K. Ko
Acting Licensing Administrator

Council Chair
Gladys C. Baisa

Vice-Chair
Robert Carroll

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
Michael P. Victorino

Council Members
Elle Cochran
Donald G. Couch, Jr.
Stacy Crivello
Don S. Guzman
G. Riki Hokama
Mike White



Director of Council Services
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.mauicounty.gov/council

February 11, 2014

TO: The Honorable K. Mark Takai, Chair
House Committee on Veterans, Military, & International Affairs, & Culture and the Arts

FROM: Gladys C. Baisa
Council Chair *Gladys C. Baisa*

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 12, 2014, TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1667,
HD1, RELATING TO VETERANS**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to exempt qualifying totally and permanently disabled veterans from paying the State Motor Vehicle Registration Fee on one of their noncommercial vehicles.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I support this measure for the following reasons:

1. Veterans of the armed services should be recognized and honored for their selflessness and bravery in serving our country. In addition to the challenges faced overseas, many veterans return home with permanent physical and mental injuries, including the loss of limbs, varying degrees of post-traumatic stress disorder, and other continued hardships. I applaud the Legislature for putting forward a bill that will show a small measure of our appreciation for their sacrifices.
2. By Act 141 (2008), the Legislature exempted one noncommercial vehicle owned by members of the National Guard, military reserves, and active-duty armed services, including the Coast Guard, who are residents of Hawaii from paying the Motor Vehicle Weight Tax. Permanently disabled veterans were not included, yet they are equally deserving of this exemption.

For the foregoing reasons, I **support** this measure.

Testimony in support of House Bill 1667
Relating to Veterans
Before the House Committee on Veterans, Military, & International Affairs &
Culture & the Arts 7 Committee Members

Chair Takai, Vice Chair Ito

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony here today.

For the past six years the needs of the Transportation Department have outweighed the need to help permanently disabled Veterans residing in Hawaii. During the past six years, the tax on vehicle registration has increased two or three times and the budget for the Transportation Department has increased considerably!

The VA finally reported on December 3, 2013 that there are only 2,203 permanently disabled Veterans living in Hawaii. An estimate of the impact of this bill was finally made possible.

In 2008, a full exemption of the registration fees was granted to the National Guard Reserves, other military reserves, and active duty military personnel claiming Hawaii as their legal residence of record (Department of Customer Services CSD Act 141). Permanently disabled Veterans were for whatever reason not included!

Permanently Disabled Veterans still endure an appreciable degree of pain; all of them are still unable to seek gainful employment; most likely all of them still suffer varying degrees of PTSD and some the effects of exposure to Agent Orange; many suffer the loss of limbs; and many must rely on a wheelchair to get around! Are these *permanently disabled* Veterans less deserving of this exemption than other military personnel?

I believe that most of the members of our Congress agree that these Permanently Disabled Veterans deserves this exemption! The affected Veterans humbly implore this Committee to unanimously approve HB1667, **effective on the date of approval**. If the bill is not effective until 1 July or 1 Oct, Veterans registering their vehicles prior to those dates will not be able to use the exemption until next year.

Thank you for hearing HB1667.

Very respectfully, Brooks W. Outland, Senior Chief USN (Ret), 87-1057 Huamoa Street, Waianae, HI 96792, 744-2945

TAXBILLSERVICE

126 Queen Street, Suite 304

TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

SUBJECT: MOTOR VEHICLE, Exempt motor vehicle registration for disabled veterans

BILL NUMBER: HB 1667, HD-1

INTRODUCED BY: House Committee on Transportation

BRIEF SUMMARY: Adds a new section to HRS chapter 249 to provide that any totally and permanently disabled veteran who is: (1) a resident of Hawaii; (2) other than dishonorably discharged from the U.S. uniformed armed forces; (3) determined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to have a service-connected 100% disability rating for compensation or a service-connected disability rating of 100%; and (4) in receipt of disability retirement pay from any branch of the uniformed armed forces, shall not be required to pay any state motor vehicle registration fees provided the exemption shall not extend to vehicles used for commercial purposes, nor to more than one vehicle of the disabled veteran.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon approval

STAFF COMMENTS: This measure proposes to exempt one noncommercial motor vehicle owned by disabled veterans who are residents of the state from the state motor vehicle registration fee. The legislature by Act 141, SLH 2008, exempted from the motor vehicle weight taxes, one noncommercial motor vehicle owned by members of the national guard, reserves, active duty armed services, including the coast guard, who are residents of Hawaii.

Inasmuch as the motor vehicle weight tax and registration fees are user charges designed to recover the cost of construction and maintenance of Hawaii's highway system, there is little justification for the proposed exemption. It should be remembered that all motorists use the state highways and should, therefore, lend a hand in paying for good and safe roads. Note well, that any exemption granted to a select group of users requires that the lost revenues be made up by those who must continue to pay. Motorists who will have to pick up the additional costs created by this proposed exemption should hold those who would propose such an exemption responsible for raising their taxes.

Exemptions based solely on physical condition or age have no place in the tax law and represent poor tax policy. So while the exemption would provide relief to a disabled veteran, a single mom making minimum wage, barely making ends meet, must continue to pay these fees. As such, this proposal cannot be justified. Given that this proposal has been continually introduced, it is hard to imagine that lawmakers have not asked the question as to why they believe that a disabled veteran is financially incapable of paying his or her fair share to maintain the state's highways.

Digested 2/6/14



Hawaii Chapter, MOAA
P.O. Box 1185
Kailua, Hawaii 96734-1185

**Testimony of
Thomas Smyth
Military Officers Association of America, Hawaii Chapter
Before the
Committee on Veterans, Military & International Affairs & Culture and the Arts
Wednesday, February 12, 2014, 8:30 am, Room 3121
HB 1667, HD 1 Relating to Veterans
Chair Takai Vice Chair Ito and Committee Members**

Our chapter of 500 retired and currently serving officers of the Uniformed Services strongly supports HB 1667, HD 1 as amended. This important bill provides a specific vehicular tax for an honorably discharged armed services veteran who is a Hawaii resident and is permanently totally disabled.

We note that it is likely that such a veteran would have a relatively heavy vehicle to accommodate his or her disability, so this tax structure is especially important to those who have given us so much of themselves.

We understand that those charged with issuing state vehicle tax bills understand how the veteran's disability system works and can accommodate this added tax variation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

LATE

Roxanne Kamalu

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2014 7:24 AM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: stacy.crivello@mauicounty.us
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1667 on Feb 12, 2014 08:30AM

HB1667

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

Testimony for VMI on Feb 12, 2014 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stacy Helm Crivello	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support HB1667,HD1 for the reasons cited in testimony submitted by the Maui County Council Chair, and urge you to support this measure.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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LATE

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1667
A BILL RELATING TO VETERANS

PRESENTATION TO
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY,
& INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, & CULTURE AND THE ARTS

BY
MAJ GEN DARRYLL D. M. WONG
STATE ADJUTANT GENERAL
February 12, 2014

Chair Takai, Vice Chair Ito, and Members of the House Committee on Veterans, Military, & International Affairs, & Culture and the Arts:

I am Major General Darryll D. M. Wong, State Adjutant General, and I am testifying in **SUPPORT** of House Bill 1667.

This bill exempts qualifying totally and permanently Disabled Veterans who are 100% Veterans Affairs (VA) rated from paying the State motor vehicle registration fee. As of November 2013, the Department of Veterans Affairs reported there are 2,203 Hawaii veterans rated at 100% disability.

This exemption would be a small recognition of those veterans who incurred military related injuries and are now rated 100% disabled.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in **SUPPORT** of House Bill 1667.