



HB760 HD1 SD1
RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 3, 2013

10:35 a.m.

Room 211

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HB760 HD1 SD1, which will allow Hawai'i's visitors to easily and voluntarily contribute towards the maintenance and conservation of our natural and cultural resources.

Numerous studies in Hawai'i and abroad have indicated that visitors to areas of natural beauty and importance are generally more than willing to contribute financially to maintaining the environmental quality of these areas. Given the prominence of our natural environment as a tourism driver, these "user fee" studies thus indicate the existence of a currently untapped revenue source, i.e. visitors who may be willing to contribute financially to the environment they travel thousands of miles to enjoy.

By allowing visitors to voluntarily contribute to our natural environment at the time of their visit, this measure will allow the state to tap into a source of substantial potential revenues for the protection and conservation of our islands' resources. Given the clear need for greater financial investment in our watersheds, coastlines, and other natural and cultural resources, and given the growing strain placed on these resources by the visitor industry, this measure thus provides much-needed revenues from an appropriate source of funds, without burdening taxpayers or our existing tourism industry. In addition, visitors who contribute funds under this measure will know that they played a part in protecting the natural resources and environment that are critical to our tourism economy, and to the welfare of the entire state.

Therefore, the OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** HB760 HD1 SD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

HISTORIC HAWAII FOUNDATION

To: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways & Means

From: Kiersten Faulkner
Executive Director, Historic Hawai'i Foundation

Committee Date: Wednesday, April 3, 2013
10:35 a.m.
Conference Room 211

Subject: **HB 760 HD 1 SD1, Relating to the Environment**

On behalf of Historic Hawai'i Foundation (HHF), I am writing in support of HB 760 HD1 SD1, which requires lessors of rental motor vehicles to include an option to the lessee in the motor vehicle agreement voluntarily to contribute a sum to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for the preservation and protection of the environment.

Since 1974, Historic Hawai'i Foundation has been a statewide leader for historic preservation. HHF's 850 members and numerous additional supporters work to preserve Hawaii's unique architectural and cultural heritage and believe that historic preservation is an important element in the present and future quality of life, economic viability and environmental sustainability of the state.

The bill would establish a mechanism by which voluntary contributions could be made to provide financial support to the natural area reserve system and the legacy lands program. These programs within the Department of Land and Natural Resources are used to preserve and protect both native ecosystems and other important lands, including those of historic or cultural significance.

The voluntary contribution program would provide a convenient means for members of the public to support the natural and cultural resources that are critical to the welfare of the state and its citizens. The program would have the added benefit of educating visitors and residents who lease vehicles about the resources that many are visiting Hawai'i to enjoy. The moneys raised would go towards two established and successful programs and lead to additional protection and preservation of the environment, including cultural resources.

Therefore, Historic Hawai'i Foundation supports HB 760 HD 1 SD1. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Historic Hawai'i Foundation

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Historic Hawai'i Foundation was established in 1974 to encourage the preservation of historic buildings, sites and communities on all the islands of Hawai'i. As the statewide leader for historic preservation, HHF works to preserve Hawai'i's unique architectural and cultural heritage and believes that historic preservation is an important element in the present and future quality of life, environmental sustainability, and economic viability of the state.

**Testimony of
Gary M. Slovin / Mihoko E. Ito
on behalf of
EAN Holdings, LLC**

DATE: April 2, 2013

TO: Senator David Ige
Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Submitted Via E-mail WAMtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: **H.B. 760 H.D.1, S.D.1 – Relating to The Environment**
Hearing Date: Wednesday, April 3, 2013 at 10:35 am
Conference Room 211

Dear Chair Ige and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

We submit these comments 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 **opposes** H.B.760 H.D.1, S.D. 1 which requires lessors of rental motor vehicles to include an option to the lessee in the motor vehicle agreement to contribute a sum to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for the preservation and protection of the environment beginning July 1, 2015. While preservation of native ecosystems is certainly a worthwhile goal, rental car customers already pay a number of taxes that support Hawaii’s infrastructure and preserve the islands’ natural beauty. There is no additional nexus to impose this mandate on top of what rental car companies and its customers already pay. The Department of Land and Natural Resources has indicated that 36 states have a similar check-off system. However, Enterprise operates in nearly every state in the country and there is no other state where Enterprise is required to institute such a check-off system.

Enterprise has invested millions of dollars in innovative research for alternative fuels, has the largest fleet of all-electric and hybrid vehicles in the industry, and already offers a voluntary contribution for research to offset carbon emissions in each contract. We feel this is a better nexus and that this option should be left to the companies rather than to an agency to require rental car companies to support their individual mission. Many missions and many causes could have an equal claim for such treatment. We feel this sets a bad precedent. Hawaii’s economy is very dependent upon return travelers, and we already impose many costs on visitors, who are voluntary visitors in most cases. Even though the contribution is voluntary, we believe that this suggestion to renters is likely to be offensive and may create a bad impression upon the very audience we need and want to return. This requirement also imposes additional burdens upon

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rental car companies that already provide a very significant service to the state in collecting considerable fees from renters. At a minimum, companies such as Enterprise that already provide an environmental check-off should not be required to impose any additional check-off on their rental agreements.

We are concerned that it is becoming too easy to seek support from others when the support should be internal as the department has fundamental resources that it should be able to tap to meet its responsibilities. For the foregoing reasons, we believe this bill should not go forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our views.

**SENATE COMMITTEE
ON
WAYS AND MEANS**

April 3, 2013

House Bill 760, HD1, SD1 Relating to the Environment

Chair Ige and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, I am Rick Tsujimura, representing The Hertz Corporation (“Hertz”).

Hertz opposes House Bill 760 HD1, SD1 Relating to the Environment. While the purpose of the bill is a noble one the additional burden on rental car operators to include a check off box for such support is burdensome. This would force changes to our contract forms.

We believe that the addition of such paperwork will confuse our employees who would be required to explain the contribution, and would also require additional paperwork and reporting requirements for the amounts collected. This would be confusing to our customers and will be burdensome and slow down the process for customers who want to complete the rental process quickly. Such charitable intent in this measure may exist, but it obviates the necessity for departments to live within their budgets, not rely upon the charity of a few renters.

We suggest that this measure be deferred indefinitely.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB760 on Apr 3, 2013 10:35AM*
Date: Monday, April 01, 2013 11:27:44 AM

HB760

Submitted on: 4/1/2013

Testimony for WAM on Apr 3, 2013 10:35AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	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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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: tabraham08@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB760 on Apr 3, 2013 10:35AM
Date: Tuesday, April 02, 2013 8:01:11 AM

HB760

Submitted on: 4/2/2013

Testimony for WAM on Apr 3, 2013 10:35AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Troy Abraham	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support passage of this bill on ALL motor vehicles

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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