

HB 1667, HD3

Exempts qualifying totally and permanently disabled veterans from paying the state motor vehicle registration fee. Requires the Office of Veterans' Services to report the number of qualifying veterans to the Legislature and Department of Taxation. Effective July 1, 2030.

(HB1667 HD3)

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

March 18, 2014
1:15 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 224

**H.B. 1667, H.D.3
RELATING TO VETERANS**

Senate Committee(s) on Transportation and International Affairs
& Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

The Department of Transportation (DOT) appreciates veterans and respectfully recognize 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 taken into consideration.

The DOT, however, **opposes** H.B. 1667, H.D.3 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.

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1667 HD3
A BILL RELATING TO VETERANS

PRESENTATION TO
THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON
TRANSPORTATION AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (TIA)
AND
PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS (PSM)

BY
MAJ GEN DARRYLL D. M. WONG
STATE ADJUTANT GENERAL AND DIRECTOR OF STATE CIVIL DEFENSE
March 18, 2014

Chair English, Chair Espero, and the Members of the Senate Committees on Transportation and International Affairs (TIA) and Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs (PSM)

I am Major General Darryll D. M. Wong, State Adjutant General, and I am testifying in **SUPPORT** of House Bill 1667 HD3.

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 HD3.

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1667, HD3 (HSCR 801-14),
RELATING TO VETERANS

PRESENTATION TO THE

SENATE COMMITTEES ON TRANSPORTATION & INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL & MILITARY
AFFAIRS

BY

MR. RONALD P. HAN

DIRECTOR OF THE STATE OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES

March 18, 2014

Good afternoon Chairs English & Espero, Vice Chairs Dela Cruz & Baker and respective Committee Members:

I'm Ron Han, Director of the State Office of Veterans Services (OVS). I appreciate this opportunity to support the concept of House Bill 1667, HD3, which exempts qualifying totally and permanently Disabled Veterans who are 100% Veterans Affairs (VA) rated from paying the State motor vehicle registration fee.

It also requires the Office of Veterans Services to report the number of qualifying Veterans to the Legislature and Department of Taxation annually and to change the effective date to September 1, 2014 to give the City Customer Services adequate time to update their computer system for vehicle registration.

As of November 2013 and according to VA metrics for Hawaii, there were 2,203 Veterans rated at the 100% disability rating.

The OVS supports the intent of this measure as long as its implementation does not impact or replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Budget for Fiscal Year 2015.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of Hawaii's Veteran community.

ALAN M. ARAKAWA
MAYOR



200 South High Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793-2155
Telephone (808) 270-7855
Fax (808) 270-7870
e-mail: mayors.office@mauicounty.gov

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Ke'ena O Ka Meia
COUNTY OF MAUI – Kalana O Maui

TESTIMONY OF ALAN ARAKAWA, MAYOR COUNTY OF MAUI

BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

and

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Tuesday, March 18, 2014, 1:15 p.m., Conference Rm. 224

HOUSE BILL 1667 HD3 RELATING TO VETERANS

The Honorable J. Kalani English, Chair
Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
And Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation and International Affairs

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair
Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair
And Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Thank you for this opportunity to testify **IN SUPPORT of HB 1667, HD3** relating to Veterans.

The purpose of this measure is to recognize the sacrifices made by veterans of the armed services by exempting certain totally and permanently disabled veterans from having to pay annual motor vehicle registration fees on one of their non-commercial vehicles.

I support this important measure for the following reasons:

- As Mayor of Maui County, I am extremely grateful for the men and women of our armed forces who sacrifice so much for us – leaving behind family, children, friends, as well as personal goals and dreams, while risking their lives overseas.
- Veterans of the armed services should be recognized and honored for their selflessness and bravery in serving our country. In addition to the challenges they face overseas, many of our service members return to Hawaii with permanent physical and mental injuries including the loss of limbs, varying degrees of PTSD, and other continued hardships. "

Senators English / Espero
HB 1667, HD3 RELATING TO VETERANS
March 18, 2014
Page 2 of 2

- In 2008, the legislature (Act 141, SLH 2008) exempted one non-commercial vehicle owned by members of the National Guard, 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.

For these reasons I support of HB 1667, HD3, and respectfully urge this body to exempt qualifying disabled veterans from paying the state motor vehicle registration fee on one of their non-commercial vehicles. As I see it, it is the least we can do.

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
Tuesday, March 18, 2014, 1:15 p.m., Conference Room 224

HOUSE Bill 1667 HD3, "RELATING TO Veterans"

Position: Comments

TO: The Honorable J. Kalani English, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Transportation and International Affairs

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and
Military Affairs

The City and County of Honolulu has no objections to H.B. No. 1667 HD3 which allows the exemption of the state motor vehicle registration fee for one noncommercial motor vehicle registered to certain one hundred percent disabled veterans.

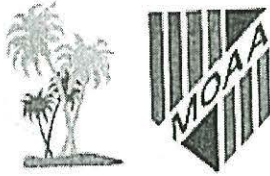
In order to implement this bill, various changes to the motor vehicle registration computer program will be required. We recommend that the effective date of the bill be amended to October 1, 2014.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on H.B. No. 1667 HD3.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Preston P. H. K. Ko".

Preston P. H. K. Ko
Acting Licensing Administrator



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 Transportation and International Affairs

And

Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Tuesday, March 18, 2014, 1:15 pm, Room 224

HB 1667, HD 3 Relating to Veterans

Chair Luke, Vice Chairs Nishimoto and Johanson and Committee Members

Our chapter of 500 retired and currently serving officers of the Uniformed Services **strongly supports HB 1667, HD 3**, 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.

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-3

INTRODUCED BY: House Committee on Finance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Exempts one noncommercial motor vehicle owned by disabled veterans who are residents of the state from the state motor vehicle registration fee. Since 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, all motorists who use the state highways should be paying for good and safe roads. Any exemption granted to a select group of users requires that the lost revenues be made up by those who must continue to pay.

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: July 1, 2030

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. All motorists use the state highways and should, therefore, lend a hand in paying for good and safe roads. Any exemption granted to a select group of users requires that the lost revenues be made up by those who must continue to pay. 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. 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.

Digested 3/14/14

Council Chair
Gladys C. Baisa

Vice-Chair
Robert Carroll

Council Members
Elle Cochran
Donald G. Couch, Jr.
Stacy Crivello
Don S. Guzman
G. Riki Hokama
Michael P. Victorino
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

March 14, 2014

TO: Honorable J. Kalani English, Chair
Senate Committee on Transportation and International Affairs

Honorable Will Espero, Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

FROM: Robert Carroll
Council Vice Chair *Robert Carroll*

DATE: Tuesday, March 18, 2014

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT OF HB 1667 H.D. 3, RELATING TO VETERANS**

I support HB 1667 HD3 for the reasons cited in testimony submitted by the Maui County Council Chair, and urge you to support this measure.

Council Chair
Gladys C. Baisa

Vice-Chair
Robert Carroll

Council Members
Elle Cochran
Donald G. Couch, Jr.
Stacy Crivello
Don S. Guzman
G. Riki Hokama
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David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

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March 14, 2014

TO: The Honorable J. Kalani English, Chair
Senate Committee on Transportation and International Affairs
The Honorable Will Espero, Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

FROM: Gladys C. Baisa
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF MARCH 18, 2014; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1667, HD3, RELATING TO VETERANS**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify **in support of** this important measure. The purpose of this measure is exempt qualifying totally and permanent 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.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 11:28 AM
To: TIATestimony
Cc: stacy.crivello@mauicounty.us
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1667 on Mar 18, 2014 13:15PM

HB1667

Submitted on: 3/14/2014

Testimony for TIA/PSM on Mar 18, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments: I support Maui County Council Chair Gladys Baisa testimony, submitted in support of the measure. Thank you!

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

Testimony in support of House Bill HB1667 HD3
Relating to Veterans
Before the Senate Transportation & International Affairs/Public Safety,
Intergovernmental & Military Affairs Committees
State Capitol Conference Room 224, 1:15 p.m., March 18, 2014

Chair English, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, Committee Members/Chair Espero, Vice
Chair Baker, Committee Members

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written 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, 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?

The affected Veterans humbly implore this Committee to **unanimously approve HB1667, effective on its approval, retroactive to January 1, 2014**. Otherwise, Veterans who must register their vehicles prior to the approval date will not be able to claim 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