

Testimony in Support of House Bill 1667
Relating to Veterans
Before the House Committee on Transportation

Chairman Yamane, Vice Chair Ichiyama & Members of the Committee.

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, military reserves, and other 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.**

Thank you for hearing HB1667.

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

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



LATE

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

January 29, 2014
10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 309

H.B. 1667
RELATING TO VETERANS

House Committee on Transportation

The Department of Transportation (DOT) appreciates our veterans and respectfully recognizes the merits to reward their sacrifices for duty, honor and country.

The DOT, however **opposes** House Bill 1667 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.

takayama2 -Brandon

From: David.J.Rodriguez@hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2014 1:12 PM
To: TRNtestimony
Cc: Janice.F.Arakaki@hawaii.gov; Coleen.F.Yoshina@hawaii.gov; charlene.ito@hawaii.gov; sheri.yoshizawa@hawaii.gov; Lynette.H.Marushige@hawaii.gov; Veronica.AM.Cheong@hawaii.gov; Galen.Wong@hawaii.gov; Jean.Oshita@hawaii.gov; jon.k.matsuo@hawaii.gov; CherylAnn.A.Cantere@hawaii.gov; Dean.Nakagawa@hawaii.gov
Subject: TRN Jan 29 @ 10am
Attachments: HB1811 ACT46.pdf; HB2147 Concessions.pdf; HB1702 Kapalama.pdf; HB1610 2014 Roads in Limbo.pdf; HB1509 Mobile Device.pdf; HB1706 Bikeways.pdf; HB1771 Civil Air Patrol.pdf; HB1667 Veterans Exemption.pdf; HB1586 SMA.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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The DOT submits testimony for the following agenda:

http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2014/hearingnotices/HEARING_TRN_01-29-14_.HTM

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

David J. Rodriguez
Special Assistant
Department of Transportation
869 Punchbowl Street, Suite 504
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
(808) 587-2165

LATE

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1667, RELATING TO VETERANS
PRESENTATION TO THE
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

BY

MR. RONALD P. HAN

DIRECTOR OF THE STATE OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES

January 29, 2014

Good morning Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Takeyama and 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 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.

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 Biennium Budget for Fiscal Years 2014-2015.

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

takayama2 -Brandon

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2014 4:05 PM
To: TRNtestimony
Cc: jennifer.aina@va.gov
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1667 on Jan 29, 2014 10:00AM
Attachments: HB 1667 Exemption for disabled veterans vehicles registration2014.doc

HB1667

Submitted on: 1/28/2014

Testimony for TRN on Jan 29, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Aina	State Office of Veterans Services	Support	Yes

Comments: Col (Ret.) Ron Han, Director, State Office of Veterans Services will be testifying.

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

LATE

KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR



SHERI T. KAJIWARA
DIRECTOR

PRESTON P.H.K. KO
ACTING LICENSING ADMINISTRATOR

January 29, 2014

The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
and Members
Committee on Transportation
State House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol
514 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Yamane and Committee Members:

Subject: H.B. No. 1667, Relating to Veterans

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

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 September 1, 2014.

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

Sincerely,

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

PRESTON P.H.K. KO
Acting Licensing Administrator

takayama2 -Brandon

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2014 10:45 AM
To: TRNtestimony
Cc: pko@honolulu.gov
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1667 on Jan 29, 2014 10:00AM
Attachments: HB1667_CSD_TRN.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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HB1667

Submitted on: 1/28/2014

Testimony for TRN on Jan 29, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Preston Ko	City and County of Honolulu	Comments Only	Yes

Comments: 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 September 1, 2014.

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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
Wednesday, February 13, 2013, 10:00 am, Room 309
HB 1667 Relating to Veterans**

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Takayama and Committee Members

Our chapter of 500 retired and currently serving officers of the Uniformed Services strongly supports HB 170, which 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.

takayama2 -Brandon

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To: TRNtestimony
Cc: tjsmyth6@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1667 on Jan 29, 2014 10:00AM
Attachments: MOAA HB1667_2.13.14__TRN_Disabled Vet's_Car_Tax.docx

HB1667

Submitted on: 1/28/2014

Testimony for TRN on Jan 29, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tom Smyth	MOAA HI Chapter	Support	Yes

Comments:

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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

INTRODUCED BY: Yamane, Aquino, Brower, Cachola, Cullen, Hashem, Onishi, Takayama, Takumi, Tsuji, Yamashita and 2 Democrats

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%; (4) determined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as having an annual income of not more than ____; and (5) 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 1/28/14

takayama2 -Brandon

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
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Cc: tina@tfhawaii.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1667 on Jan 29, 2014 10:00AM
Attachments: h1667-14.pdf

HB1667

Submitted on: 1/28/2014

Testimony for TRN on Jan 29, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thomas Yamachika	Tax Foundation of Hawaii	Comments Only	No

Comments: Here is the Tax Foundation of Hawaii testimony on HB 1667.

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