

SB 2138

Increases the maximum passenger capacity of neighborhood electric vehicles from 4 to 6.

Increases the maximum weight of neighborhood electric vehicles from 1,800 pounds unladen to 3,000 pounds fully laden.

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 4, 2014
1:16 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 224

S.B. 2138
RELATING TO ELECTRIC VEHICLES

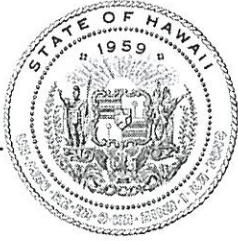
Senate Committee(s) on Transportation and International Affairs &
Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

The Department of Transportation supports S.B. 2138 which will modify Section 291C-1, HRS, so the permitted gross vehicle weight rating of a neighborhood electric vehicle is anything less than 3,000 pounds rather than 1,800 pounds.

This modification will now be in conformance with the current Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard Number 500, which became effective on 1/5/2006 and limits the gross vehicle weight rating of a low speed vehicle to less than 3,000 pounds. The standard does not contain a limit on the number of occupants.

We recommend that the proposed definition of a neighborhood electric vehicle be included in both Section 286-2, HRS and Section 291C-1, HRS, so the definitions in both sections will be identical and consistent with the intent.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

RICHARD C. LIM
DIRECTOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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Statement of
RICHARD C. LIM
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
**SENATE COMMITTEES ON TRANSPORTATION AND INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRS**
And
PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Tuesday, February 4, 2014
1:16 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

in consideration of
SB 2138
RELATING TO ELECTRIC VEHICLES.

Chairs English and Espero, Vice Chairs Dela Cruz and Baker, and Members of the Committees.

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) supports SB 2138, which amends the definition of a neighborhood electric vehicle (NEV) by weight and number of passengers the NEV is designed to carry. NEVs are all electric battery powered EVs that are legally limited to roads with posted speed limits as high as 35 MPH.

This measure would bring Hawaii law into conformity with the weight allowance for the NEVs under the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards from a maximum vehicle weight of less than 1,800 pounds unladen, or empty, to less than 3,000 pounds fully laden. SB 2138 also increases from 4 to 6 the number of passengers that the vehicle is designed to carry. Extending the weight and passenger limits for NEVs is expected to improve the marketability for NEVs. The greater penetration of NEVs will decrease the amount of gasoline consumed in the State and contribute to Hawaii's transportation goals under the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICES
CITY & 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, February 4, 2014, 1:16 p.m., Conference Room 224

SENATE Bill 2138, "RELATING TO ELECTRIC VEHICLES"

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 recommends that the definition of "neighborhood electric vehicle" contained in Section 291C-1 and Section 286-2 be the same.

We recommend that both sections define a "Neighborhood electric vehicle" as follows:

"Neighborhood electric vehicle" means a self-propelled electrically powered motor vehicle to which all of the following apply:

- (1) The vehicle is emission free;
- (2) The vehicle is designed to be and is operated at speeds of twenty-five miles per hour or less;
- (3) The vehicle has four wheels in contact with the ground;
- (4) The vehicle has a gross vehicle weight rating of less than three thousand pounds; and
- (5) The vehicle conforms to the minimum safety equipment requirements as adopted in the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 500, Low Speed Vehicles (49 C.F.R. 571.500).

Sincerely,

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

Preston P. H. K. Ko
Acting Licensing Administrator