



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

919 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 101 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V/TDD) • Fax (808) 586-8129

January 29, 2016

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill 1641 - Relating to Persons with Disabilities

The Disability and Communication Access Board wishes to express concerns regarding House Bill 1641, Relating to Persons with Disabilities. We are unaware of the impetus for this bill, but understand from Section 1 that the purpose is to have a designation that "...would allow the person access to certain public services such as special transportation and seating for persons with disabilities at public events, and would also be helpful in communicating special needs to police and other public safety personnel, in the event of an emergency."

Among our concerns are:

- The designation may be misunderstood as eligibility for services. Programs such as The Bus, HandiVan or paratransit, or a disabled person parking placard do not have a single eligibility criteria. This designation would not replace the eligibility criteria and process for service eligibility for many disability programs and services. In fact, it would cause more confusion.
- There is the potential for abuse if the designation is self-disclosure only.
- There is no criteria or definition for "disability." Is there a medical form or other documentation which is required? Is it self-identifying?
- The use of the International Symbol of Accessibility (ISA) is not appropriate. It is a symbol to be used to identify an inanimate object (parking stall, door, vehicle) as opposed to a person.
- Labeling in general without a specific reason can be problematic because of the potential for discrimination when folks see a 'condition' to describe a person and perceive a limitation that may or may not exist (i.e., the ability to drive a car).
- This has the potential for being less than voluntary if people expect that an identification card or drivers license have a disability listed.

Thank you for the opportunity to present comments.

Respectfully submitted,

BARBARA FISCHLOWITZ-LEONG
Chairperson
Legislative Committee

FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director



Testimony by:
FORD N. FUCHIGAMI
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
JADE T. BUTAY
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
DARRELL T. YOUNG

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

January 29, 2016
8:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 329

HB 1641
RELATING TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITY

House Committee on Health

The Department of Transportation (DOT) is submitting **comments** because it has concerns as it relates to HB1641 that authorizes the examiner of drivers to include information about a person's disability on a person's driver's license or civil identification card.

The first concern is the Hawaii driver's license and civil identification cards have very limited space on the credentials. Placing the international handicap symbol in a noticeable size on the front of the driver's license or civil identification card will begin to create a "cluttered" effect. On the driver's license and civil identification card reverse side there is very limited space to provide the examiner of drivers the ability to "enter information about the person's disability." Space on the reverse side of the driver's license is limited due to use of the available space for such things as; the 3D bar code, required REAL ID elements, class of driver's license description, any driver restrictions and any driver's endorsements.

Secondly, the county driver license locations issue REAL ID compliant driver's licenses, REAL ID compliant civil identification cards and non-compliant Limited Purpose driver's licenses. Because the transactions include the review and scanning of required documents necessary to obtain these credentials, the applicants at these locations have experienced at times protracted "wait times" due to long lines. If the county driver license locations are now required to issue "temporary disability identification cards", customers will be experiencing longer wait times. As such, we are opposed to the provision of indicating a temporary disability on these cards requiring an applicant to visit the county driver license locations every six (6) months.

Lastly, if this bill passes, there would be a need to evaluate how to amend the application form to accommodate the new requirements and then distribute the new application form to the counties. In addition, because the DOT will be providing application forms to the counties for driver's license and civil identification cards in the languages it offers the state knowledge tests, the DOT will have these forms translated

into those languages which will require additional time and financial resources.
However, these tasks will not be able to be completed by July 1, 2016.
Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
919 ALA MOANA BOULEVARD, ROOM 113
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543
January 29, 2016

The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair
House Committee on Health
Twenty-Eighth Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Au Belatti and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: HB 1641 – Relating to Persons with Disabilities

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) appreciates the **intent of HB 1641**. The bill would allow persons with disabilities to include the international handicap symbol and information about their disability on their driver's license or civil identification card.

The Council understands that having such a card may be helpful for an individual with a disability in communicating their special needs while participating in various community events or for police, fire and other public safety personnel in the event of an emergency. On the other hand, we convey the following concerns as we feel there may be unintended consequences with the bill as drafted:

1. There may be potential for individuals to use their driver's license with the international handicap symbol to receive preferential treatment at community events. Because it is voluntary to include the international handicap symbol on the driver's license, fortunate are those individuals who do this to obtain access to certain public services such as special transportation and seating for persons with disabilities. For those who choose not to disclose their disability, they would not be able to access those special services.
2. The symbol alone does not designate the specific disability. For police, fire and other public safety the international symbol only alerts them of a disability with no other information.
3. There may be misinterpretation or misunderstanding that the designation of the disability determines eligibility for services and by having the designation means the individual may automatically qualify for services.

The Honorable Della Au Belatti

Page 2

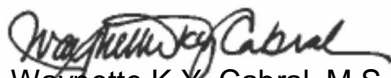
January 29, 2016

4. The definition of "Disability" on Page 3, Section 3, lines 15-19 does not indicate any criteria. It is not clear whether a physician's documentation of a disability is required or just the person's self-disclosing and identifying that a disability exists.
5. We question whether or not the international handicap symbol is the appropriate symbol to designate a disability as we understand it to be related to access such as for parking and not to identify a person with a disability.

The Council respectfully suggests that the Disability and Communication Access Board as the state ADA coordinator be consulted regarding the international handicap symbol and definition of disability.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on **HB 1641**.

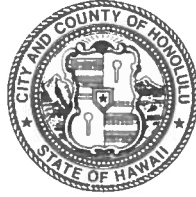
Sincerely,



Waynette K.Y. Cabral, M.S.W.
Executive Administrator

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET · HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 529-3111 · INTERNET: www.honolulu.org



KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR

LOUIS M. KEALOHA
CHIEF

MARIE A. McCAULEY
CARY OKIMOTO
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE DI-GR

January 29, 2016

The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair
and Members
Committee on Health
State House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Au Belatti and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill No. 1641, Relating to Persons with Disabilities

I am Darren Izumo, Major of the Traffic Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD),
City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD supports the passage of House Bill No. 1641, Relating to Persons with Disabilities.
Since not all disabilities are outwardly visible, the disclosure on a driver's license or civil identification
card can greatly help first responders determine the best way to treat, assist, or communicate with
the person.

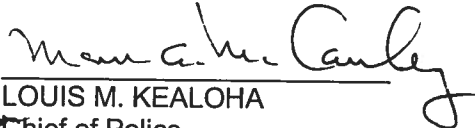
The HPD urges you to support House Bill No. 1641, Relating to Persons with Disabilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

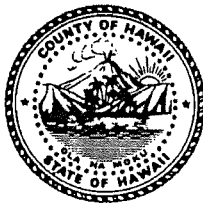
Sincerely,


DARREN IZUMO, Major
Traffic Division

APPROVED:


LOUIS M. KEALOHA
Chief of Police

William P. Kenoi
Mayor



Deanna S. Sako
Director

Lisa K. Miura
Deputy Director

County of Hawai'i

Finance Department

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2103 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720
(808) 961-8234 • Fax (808) 961-8569

January 28, 2016

The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair
And the Members of the Committee on Health
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 329
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: House Bill 1641, RELATING TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The County of Hawaii strongly OPPOSES this measure as written.

This measure will require the international handicap symbol and information relating to the person's disability to be displayed on the driver's license or state civil identification card. Currently, both the driver's license and civil identification cards have very limited space to include this information. We would not be able to place a "noticeable" handicap symbol on the front of the license and civil identification card due to the lack of adequate space. The back of the license is also limited due to the 3D bar code, required REAL ID elements, description for class of driver's license, restrictions and endorsements. The back of the civil identification card is also limited due to the 3D bar code, required REAL ID elements and emergency contact information. We are concerned that the addition of this symbol and information will project a "cluttered" look.

Current processing time of REAL ID compliant driver's license, REAL ID compliant civil identification cards and non-compliant Limited Purpose Driver's License includes the review and scanning of pertinent documents presented by customers. The inclusion of additional documents relative to determining disability will increase processing time at our offices which will cause longer lines and increased waiting time for customers. For this reason, we are opposed to the provision of issuing a temporary disability card which require an applicant to renew every six months.

We respectfully urge the committee to reject House Bill 1641. Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deanna Sako".

Deanna Sako
Finance Director

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 7:36 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1641 on Jan 29, 2016 08:30AM*

HB1641

Submitted on: 1/26/2016

Testimony for HLT on Jan 29, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

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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