

tokioka2-Robert

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2015 6:50 PM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: ronald.han@va.gov
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB343 on Mar 16, 2015 09:00AM
Attachments: SB343-2015 (C1) Exemption for disabled veterans vehicles registration.pdf

SB343

Submitted on: 3/13/2015

Testimony for VMI on Mar 16, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ron Han	DOD-OVS	Support	Yes

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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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 343, RELATING TO VETERANS

PRESENTATION TO THE

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, &
CULTURE AND THE ARTS

BY

MR. RONALD P. HAN
DIRECTOR OF STATE OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES

March 16, 2015

Aloha Chair Ito, Vice Chair Tokioka, and Members of the Committee:

I'm Ron Han, Director of the State Office of Veterans Services (OVS). I appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony in support of the concept of Senate Bill 343 which exempts qualifying totally and permanently Disabled Veterans who are 100% Veterans Affairs 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.

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.

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

tokioka2-Robert

From: David.J.Rodriguez@hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 14, 2015 12:33 PM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: Lynette.H.Marushige@hawaii.gov; Galen.Wong@hawaii.gov
Subject: VMI Mar16 @9am
Attachments: SB0343 Veterans VMI.pdf

The DOT submits testimony for SB343

NOTICE> http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2015/hearingnotices/HEARING_VMI_03-16-15_.HTM

Mahalo,

David J. Rodriguez

Special Assistant

Department of Transportation

869 Punchbowl Street, Suite 504

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

(808) 587-2165

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



Testimony of
FDRD N. FUCHIGAMI
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
JADE T. BUTAY
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDWN H. SNIFFEN
DARRELL T. YDUNG

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

March 16, 2015
9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 312

**S.B. 343
RELATING TO VETERANS**

House Committee on Veterans, Military & International Affairs & Culture and the Arts

The Department of Transportation (DOT) has no position on this bill, and although the DOT appreciates veterans and respectfully recognizes the merits to reward their sacrifices for duty, honor and country any proposed decrease would have a negative impact on the health of the State Highway Fund.

This exemption for the state motor vehicle registration fee will reduce the revenues deposited into the State Highway Fund, which is a major source of revenue deposited into the State Highway Fund.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

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From: Lawrence Enomoto <lawrence.enomoto@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2015 10:09 PM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: Venus Delos Santos; Norbert Enos; STANLEY FERNANDEZ
Subject: Testimony Supporting SB 343 & SB 559 SD2
Attachments: VFW Hawaii Testimony Supporting SB 343-VMI.pdf; VFW Hawaii Testimony Supporting SB 559 SD2-VMI.pdf

Please find the attached testimony supporting both SB 343 & SB 559 SD2.

Lawrence M.G. Enomoto
VFW Hawaii State Legislative Liaison



Headquarters: Department of State of Hawaii
438 Hobron Lane, Suite 407
Honolulu, Hawaii 96815

March 13, 2015

**Testimony in Support of SENATE BILL 343
Relating to Veterans Before the
House Committee on Veterans, Military, & International Affairs & Culture and the Arts
Hearing On Monday, March 16, 2015, 9:00 A.M.
In Conference Room 312**

Chair Ito, Vice Chair Tokioka and Committee Members,

The Department of Hawaii, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) represents 3,800 members in 20 Posts located throughout the State of Hawaii. VFW is a federally chartered national association of soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen who have served the United States of America in wars, campaigns, and expeditions on foreign soil or in hostile waters.

S.B. 343 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. Applies to motor vehicle registration occurring on or after September 1, 2015.

VFW Hawaii concurs with the findings of the Senate Committees on Ways and Means: "that the sacrifices made by veterans who suffered service-related injuries that left them one hundred percent disabled should be acknowledged and that this measure would provide but a small token of the gratitude, recognition, and support that these veterans deserve."

VFW Hawaii members would appreciate your favorable consideration of this measure because it provides a tangible benefit for those wounded warriors whose combat experience has left them totally and permanently disabled.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of S.B. 343.

Lawrence M.G. Enomoto

Lawrence M.G. Enomoto
VFW Hawaii State Legislative Liaison

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 14, 2015 11:22 AM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: mjgolo@email.phoenix.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB343 on Mar 16, 2015 09:00AM

SB343

Submitted on: 3/14/2015

Testimony for VMI on Mar 16, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Golojuch	Veterans Advisory Board	Support	No

Comments: The Advisory Board to the Office of Veterans Services supports SB343.

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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: SB 343; HB 1153 (Identical)

INTRODUCED BY: SB by Gabbard, Espero, Inouye, Shimabukuro and 3 Democrats; HB by Aquino, Cullen, Har, Johanson, LoPresti, Takumi, Yamane, Yamashita and 1 Democrat

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; applicable to motor vehicle registrations occurring on or after September 1, 2015

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.

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. 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 2/6/15

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2015 4:51 PM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: sonnyfernand@msn.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB343 on Mar 16, 2015 09:00AM

SB343

Submitted on: 3/13/2015

Testimony for VMI on Mar 16, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stanley Y. Fernandez Sr.	Individual	Support	No

Comments: SB 343, Relating to Veterans Exemption of State Motor vehicle registration fee for permanently physically 100% disabled veterans. In support of this SB343.

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tokioka2-Robert

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2015 8:27 AM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: jamesjtz@aol.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB343 on Mar 16, 2015 09:00AM*

SB343

Submitted on: 3/15/2015

Testimony for VMI on Mar 16, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James Gauer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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