



## DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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

February 24, 2017

### TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

#### Senate Bill 974, SD1 – Relating to Parking for Disabled Persons

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports Senate Bill 974, SD1 – Relating to Parking for Disabled Persons. The purpose of this bill is to limit the exemption from payment of parking meter fees to only applicants who present a certificate of disability verifying that they (1) are licensed to drive a motor vehicle and (2) cannot reach or operate parking meters because of a physical disability.

Section 291-55, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), provides that any vehicle displaying a disability parking permit is exempted from payment of parking meter fees for two-and-a-half hours or the maximum time allowed by the meter, whichever is longer. The current exemption goes beyond the original intent of the law, which was to waive the fee for drivers who could not reach or operate parking meters because of a physical disability. The original purpose of the law was not to provide free parking for all disability parking permit holders. An unintended consequence of the current exemption was the creation of an incentive for persons other than the permit holders, such as family members and others, to illegally use the permit to avoid paying parking meter fees.

Therefore, this bill will (1) narrow the exemption from payment of parking meter fees to only licensed drivers who cannot reach or operate a parking meter because of their disability, (2) reduce the illegal use of disability parking permits by persons other than permit holders to avoid parking meter fees, and (3) increase revenue to the State. In addition, qualified applicants will be issued a distinguishing parking permit or decal for display in their vehicles while parked in metered parking spaces to signify their exemption from payment pursuant to section 291-55, HRS.

We request an additional amendment to Section 4 of the bill on page 4, line 16. Suggested language change would be to delete the words "a maximum of" and insert "the first" in front of two-and-a-half hours. This will specify that the meter fee exemption applies to the first two-and-a-half hours or the maximum time the meter allows, whichever is longer. Emphasis on the first two-and-a-half hours will require permit holders to move their vehicles after the allowed time expires.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

BARBARA FISCHLOWITZ-LEONG  
Chairperson  
Legislative Committee

FRANCINE WAI  
Executive Director



**DOWNTOWN-CHINATOWN NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 13**

---

NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 925 DILLINGHAM BOULEVARD, SUITE 160 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96817  
PHONE (808) 768-3710 • FAX (808) 768-3711 • INTERNET <http://www.honolulu.gov/ncq>

State Senate  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear State Senate,

At the meeting of Thursday, February 2, 2017, the No. 13 Downtown-Chinatown Neighborhood Board voted, 7-0-0 in support of Senate Bill (SB) 974.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alvin Au", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Alvin Au, Chair  
Downtown Neighborhood Board No. 13

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 22, 2017 11:00 AM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Cc:** charleschang2017@outlook.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB974 on Feb 24, 2017 09:30AM

**SB974**

Submitted on: 2/22/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 24, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
charles chang	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Often see people jumping from one stall to another to avoid fee. This also happens with electric vehicles doing the same thing to avoid fees.

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](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)