



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

House Bill 1109 – Relating to Parking for Disabled Persons

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports House Bill 1109 – Relating to Parking for Disabled Persons. The purpose of this bill is to amend Chapter 291, Part III, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), by adding express language to authorize law enforcement officers and commissioned volunteer enforcement officers to confiscate person with a disability parking permits that are inherently unlawful or unlawfully used. Specifically, the bill would authorize law enforcement to confiscate permits from individuals for the following reasons: (1) fraudulent manufacture or alteration of a permit for personal use, sale, or issuance; (2) use of a permit by someone other than the permittee; or (3) use of an invalid permit.

We request that the bill be amended by making the following two changes:

- Adding authorization for law enforcement to confiscate invalid disability parking permits that are used to take advantage of the parking meter fee exemption provided under section 291-55, HRS on page 4 after line 9 to read:

- “(4) Use of an invalid removable windshield placard, an invalid temporary removable windshield placard, or invalid special license plates to obtain the parking privilege authorized under section 291-55; or
- (5) Sale or purchase of a removable windshield placard, a temporary removable windshield placard, or special license plates pursuant to section 291-__.”

- Adding a new section to the bill making the sale or purchase of a disability parking permit illegal and subject to confiscation and a fine. Suggested wording follows:

“§291- Sale or purchase. Any person who sells or purchases a removable windshield placard, temporary removable windshield placard, or special license plates issued to an applicant shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. The sale or purchase of each removable windshield placard, temporary removable windshield placard, or special license plate in violation of this section shall constitute a separate offense.”

Removing these permits from circulation will help to keep reserved accessible parking spaces available for valid permit holders and prevent abusers from taking advantage of the parking meter fee exemption afforded to valid permit holders pursuant to section 291-55, HRS. Suggested language for these amendments is for your consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

BARBARA FISCHLOWITZ-LEONG
Chairperson
Legislative Committee

FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director