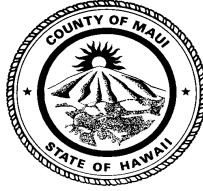


ALAN M. ARAKAWA
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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
Ke`ena O Ka Meia
COUNTY OF MAUI – Kalana O Maui

February 21, 2018

TESTIMONY OF ALAN M ARAKAWA
MAYOR
COUNTY OF MAUI

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Friday, February 23, 2018, 10:00 A.M.
Conference Room 221

SB2256 RELATING TO HIGHWAY BEAUTIFICATION.

Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT OF SB2256.**

The purpose of this bill is to make the motor vehicle registration fee for U-drive motor vehicles consistent with the fee for all other motor vehicles. Also, it makes any county ordinance that increases a motor vehicle registration fee applicable to U-drive vehicles.

Currently, Maui County's Highway Beautification fund is drastically underfunded. There are a large number of abandoned vehicles that start off as rental cars and get sold on the used car market and eventually abandoned. The funds to remove these vehicles comes from the Highway Beautification fees.

Allowing the County to charge the rental vehicles the same amount of fees as purchased vehicles will significantly help remove these same vehicles from our roadways as they become abandoned.

I strongly urge you to pass SB2256.

Sincerely,

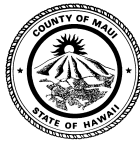
Alan M. Arakawa
Mayor, County of Maui

Council Chair
Mike White

Vice-Chair
Robert Carroll

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
Stacy Crivello


Councilmembers
Alika Atay
Elle Cochran
Don S. Guzman
Riki Hokama
Kelly T. King
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura



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February 21, 2018

TO: The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Mike White
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 23, 2018; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2256, RELATING TO HIGHWAY BEAUTIFICATION**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure. The purpose of this bill is to make the motor vehicle registration fee for U-drive motor vehicles consistent with the fee for all other motor vehicles.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I **support** this measure for the following reasons:

1. U-drive motor vehicles, better known as rental vehicles, benefit from a lower highway beautification fee as compared to all other vehicles. The fee is particularly important, as the revenues fund highway beautification projects and the disposal of abandoned or derelict vehicles, which is an on-going issue throughout Maui County.
2. Visitor counts continue to grow, which places a larger burden on county resources. Since the counties' transient accommodation tax has been capped, the County has had to pick up the increased burden resulting from more visitors. As a result, county resources have become increasingly strapped, including the County's highway beautification fund, which has experienced shortfalls. This measure will help ensure funds are available to keep our highways clean and abandoned and derelict vehicles off our roadways.
3. U-drive motor vehicles share the roads alongside all other vehicles. Therefore, U-drive vehicle owners should contribute equally to highway beautification.

For the foregoing reasons, I strongly **support** this measure.