

SB-2849-HD-1

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karen Silver	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

April 1, 2018

Aloha Representatives,

We strongly approve passage of SB2849 SD1 HD1 as I have invested considerable time, efforts and monies into my hobby of collecting and restoring historic military vehicles.

I am a senior and a retiree of the sugar industry, as was my father and grandfather. My first vehicle at age 15 in which I learned to drive was a 1942 Willys Jeep (surplus). I have been a lifelong hunter and fisherman in Hawaii and have purchased 4-wheel drive surplus military vehicles in the past. After retirement I attended evening classes at Kauai Community College where I learned welding. I designed and built a trailer as my final class project which I use to transport a historic military vehicle. I am presently the proud owner of two 1972 Swiss Pinzgauer 710 trucks and a M274 1/2 ton **off-road** utility truck which I transport via my trailer to car shows for display. These vehicles are used by me and my family for recreational purposes. The Pinzgauer is not a daily driver and is driven 100 miles a month, at most. Restoring and using such vehicles has been an ongoing passion of mine. My family and I have found that the Jeep is just too small whereas the Pinzgauer allows me to take my family and friends and camping equipment on outings to Kokee State Park and other areas inaccessible for regular (non 4-wheel drive) vehicles.

My first Pinzgauer was purchased from an owner in California (where it was street legal) nearly five years ago. Prior to buying this truck, we did extensive research into the DOT regulations regarding safety and registration of this vehicle in the State of Hawaii. At that time, my research indicated that all vehicles in the State of Hawaii are required to pass an annual safety check and be insured. The United States Federal DOT safety regulations state "A motor vehicle that is at least 25 years old can be lawfully imported into the U.S. without regard to whether it complies with all applicable DOT Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS)." The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) concurs with the FMVSS because from the NHTSA's perspective, the number of these vehicles that are still operable is so small that they should not cause a significant safety hazard. There are approximately 85,000 registered vehicles on Kauai. We are aware of only five Pinzgauer 710s on Kauai - two

of which are operated by entities involved in the hospitality industry, of the three remaining, I own two, one of which is a parts vehicle. Since all vehicles older than 25 years are exempted from FMVSS requirements, a Pinzgauer older than 25 years meets all **applicable** FMVSS requirements. **This vehicle has been legally insured, safety checked and registered on Kauai since I it purchased in November of 2014.** My second Pinzgauer was recently purchased as a parts vehicle, previous owners were a zip-line company on Maui.

Pinzgauers are equipped with rollover protection (front and rear), seatbelts for all passengers and dual circuit brakes. I would prefer to have my grandchildren restrained in the Pinzgauer rather than riding unrestrained in a school bus or bouncing around in the back of a pickup truck. Over 20,000 of these vehicles have been manufactured and are still in production today. Sixteen countries, including the United States, have used Pinzgauers for military transport. The Pinzgauer was also marketed in the civilian marketplace worldwide for use as campers, farm trucks, ambulances, firetrucks and rescue vehicles. Likewise, many ended up being used as tourist vans due to their large passenger capacity and stable, reliable platform. They have been used as tourist transports in Africa, Australia, South America, **Hawaii**, and other exotic locales.

They are designed in such a manner as to make them small, light and very maneuverable in tight spaces, yet to maximize interior space and load capacity. The Pinzgauer 710s I own have a weight capacity of 1 metric ton (2,200) pounds. The Pinzgauer is powered by a 4 cylinder air-cooled gasoline engine of 153 cubic inches and is rated at 87 horsepower, it seats 10 passengers and has a top speed of 68 mph with a wheel base of 86.5 inches -- compared to a 2018 Dodge 1 ton (2,000) pounds capacity King Cab, empty weight is 15,000 pounds, is powered by a 6 cylinder diesel engine of 409 cubic inches and is rated at 385 horsepower, seats 5 passengers, has a wheel base of 169 inches and a top speed of 100+ mph.

Respectfully,

David & Karen Silver

Kapaa, Hawaii



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April 3, 2018
1:30 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 308

**S.B. 2849, S.D. 1, H.D. 1
RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION**

House Committee on Finance

The Department of Transportation **opposes** S.B. 2849, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, relating to motor vehicle registration. This bill classifies certain former military vehicles as special interest vehicles and will enable the owners of former military vehicles to apply for registration with the director of finance of the county in which the former military vehicle resides.

The special interest vehicle law was implemented to accommodate hobbyists who spend significant amounts of money and time modifying their vehicles. The objective was to make it possible for these hobbyists to show off the products of their labors. This bill dramatically changes this purpose as it will circumvent the manufacturer's certification requirement of Section 286-42(a), Hawaii Revised Statutes, which minimizes the number of uncertified vehicles on Hawaii roads.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) allows vehicles that are 25 years old or older to be imported to the USA without being certified by the manufacturer to comply with the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) because from NHTSA's perspective, the number of these vehicles that are still operable is so small that they should not cause a significant safety hazard. The State of Hawaii, however, has required vehicles, regardless of the year they were manufactured, to be in compliance with all applicable FMVSS as of the date of manufacture. This ensures that Hawaii's inventory of registered vehicles meet certain safety standards that help keep our roads safer for Hawaii's residents and visitors.

Military vehicles are not the product of hobbyists and they were not manufactured for use on our public roads.

Further, the weight of some of these military vehicles, are a concern. Vehicle weights should be considered as heavier vehicles generally tend to degrade roadways faster.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.