



TESTIMONY BY:

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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
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February 8, 2019
10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 423

H.B. 323
RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION.

House Committee on Transportation

The Department of Transportation **opposes** H.B. 323.

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 State of Hawaii requires vehicles to be in compliance with all applicable Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

HB-323

Submitted on: 2/8/2019 10:43:27 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/8/2019 10:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Nahoopii	KIRC	Support	Yes

Comments:

As a State agency that uses numerous former military vehicle, we support this measure but recommend raising the load capacity to 1,500 lbs.

HB-323

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 2:22:53 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/8/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Vernon Badua	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, The introduction of HB323 is classify certain types of military vehicles such as the "AMG M998 or Humvee" as "special interest vehicles" which would enable the owners of former military vehicles to legally apply for registration with the director of finance of the county in which the former military vehicle resides in. The "special interest vehicle law" was implemented to accommodate Hobbyists & Historians who spend significant amounts of money and time restoring and modifying their vehicles. The objective was to make it possible for these Hobbyists & Historians to not only show off their labors, but to aid in community relations such as parades and education. This bill will not change the of the purpose of the law, nor will it aid in circumventing the manufacturer's certification requirement of Section 286-42(a), Hawaii Revised Statutes, as most of the vehicles are exempt due to age and weight class. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) allows vehicles that are 25 years old or older to be registered without having to be certified by the manufacturer to comply with the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) because they are not considered to be a significant road safety hazard. More importantly, still the despite the exemption from the FMVSS, and the general misconception, the M998 or Humvee does still comply to the Federal Safety Standards, the NHTSA further states: "..The Dept. of Defense in apparent recognition that its vehicles are "motor vehicles" has attempted to ensure that they conform with the Federal Safety Standards to the extent practicable, as evidence in MIL-STD-1180B..." Hawaii, has needlessly required older vehicles including surplus military vehicles, regardless of the year they were manufactured to be in compliance with all applicable FMVSS regardless if they are exempt or not, without any justification or reason. Even if certain types of military vehicles do not have the certification due to age, they are within the FMVSS standards and are able to pass a State required "Safety Check" in order to obtain Hawaii State registration. The same surplus military vehicles such as the M998 (Humvee) which was introduced in 1983, is still operated by the US Military 36yrs after the fact and has all the required safety features to operate both on and off road, features that include turn signals, brakes lights and seatbelts etc. Hawaii's inventory of registered vehicles including the "Special Interest Vehicles" will continue to meet the required safety standards that help keep our roads safe for Hawaii's residents. Surplus Military vehicles are an excellent product for restoration for both historians and hobbyists alike and they were not only manufactured for use "off road" but on our public roads as well, or the US Military wouldn't be using them on our public roads or selling them to the general public for reuse. US Defense was the primary reason for the Public Road System in the first place, to say Military

Vehicles are not intended for use on roads that were built with them in mind contradicts its originally intention. The Public Road System was launched by the Interstate Defense Highway Act of 1956. One in five miles of the Interstate System is straight so that military vehicles can convoy and airplanes can land in emergencies, so I highly doubt that the "weight" of a Humvee (M998) which falls within the same Class III weight category as the Ford F350 or the GMC 2500HD would greatly degrade our roadways rather than the numerous tractor trailers that fill our road during our daily commute each day. So a military vehicles weight shouldn't even be considered a factor, as they will "rarely" carry the amount of weight they were intended too. The AMG Humvee (M998) was never intended for direct combat, but rather designed as a "personnel and light cargo truck". By this description, I see no major differences between how the military uses their vehicles including the Humvee (M998), and how I intend to use mine (or how others will use theirs). The AMG Humvee (M998) and the AMG HUMMER H1 (civilian version) were intended for the same purpose. Lastly, most of these surplus military vehicles including the Humvee (M998) do comply with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) and are able to meet most if not all requirements as described. As a disable military vet, it is important to me to keep our military history alive for the generations to come. As they (the DOD) are decommissioning hundreds of military surplus vehicles including the Humvee (M998) and scraping them for metal. I believe that the AMG Humvee (M998) is the "Willys Jeep" of my generation and I would sorely hate to watch it fade away much like alot of our rich military heritage has already. Thank you for the opportunity to provide my testimony.

HB-323

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 5:24:04 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/8/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Philip T. Rapoza	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-323

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 8:14:17 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/8/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eric Ako DVM	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-323

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 9:17:35 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/8/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael A. Wee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly SUPPORT this bill. Former military vehicles that have "served " the military and are now in civilian hands and need to be properly registered and insured. These vehicles are only used for parades, historical events, car shows, etc. Restored military vehicles are meticulously maintained to high operational and safety standards. Please pass this measure so all vehicle enthusiasts can legally enjoy their hobby.

HB-323

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 4:15:36 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/8/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Malcolm Yee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB 323 which would allow private owners of historic military vehicles to be able to register their vehicles and drive them on public roads.

HB-323

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 5:05:30 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/8/2019 10:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gerrah Badua	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I believe that these vehicles should be preserved and allowed to be registered in the state of Hawaii. I have personally rode in these and pose no safety concern.

HB-323

Submitted on: 2/8/2019 6:21:16 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/8/2019 10:00:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Olav Holst	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill will encourage the preservation of Hawaii's history in the form of military vehicles. Many of Hawaii's veterans and civilian population can relate to the roles played in our history by these vehicles. Keeping these vehicles on the road will make it possible for future generations to relate to where we have come and bring our past to life.