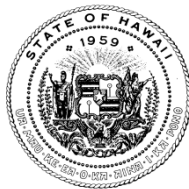


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



TESTIMONY BY:

JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
LYNN A.S. ARAKI-REGAN
DEREK J. CHOW
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

March 22, 2019
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Room 423

H.C.R. 102 / H.R. 95
REQUESTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND THE CITY
AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES
ADDRESS THE PROBLEM OF ABANDONED SHOPPING CARTS ON OAHU.

House Committee on Transportation

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** the effort to address the problem of abandoned shopping carts on Oahu.

With respect to the involvement of the DOT in this matter, shopping carts, in good condition, that are encountered on State lands by our contractor are returned to their rightful owners. As the contractor is a part of our management plan to address the issue of abandoned or seized property, we believe that the DOT is sufficiently managing this problem. However, the DOT would be happy to support the City and County in their efforts.

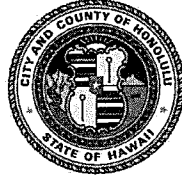
Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

650 SOUTH KING STREET, 3RD FLOOR
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

Phone: (808) 768-8305 • Fax: (808) 768-4730 • web: www.honolulu.gov

KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR



WES FRYSZTACKI
DIRECTOR

JON Y. NOUCHI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

March 22, 2019

The Honorable Henry J. C. Aquino
The Honorable Troy N. Hashimoto
and Members of the House
Committee on Transportation
State Capitol, Room 423
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Hashimoto, and Members of the Committee:

**SUBJECT: Testimony on House Concurrent Resolution 45 &
House Resolution 42**

The Department of Transportation Services is in support of this measure.

As expressed in this resolution, the City and County of Honolulu recognizes the need to abate traffic congestion during peak hours and we already prohibit parking on this section of Isenberg Street.

The Department of Transportation Services affirms that the extension of the parking restriction to 6:30 p.m. will alleviate congestion and we are already preparing to implement this.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Frysztacki", is written over a horizontal line.

Wes Frysztacki
Director



**TESTIMONY OF TINA YAMAKI
PRESIDENT
RETAIL MERCHANTS OF HAWAII
March 22, 2019**

**Re: HCR 102 / HR 95 REQUESTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
AND THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
SERVICES ADDRESS THE PROBLEM OF ABANDONED SHOPPING CARTS ON OAHU.**

Good morning Chairperson Aquino and members of the House Committee on Transportation. I am Tina Yamaki, President of the Retail Merchants of Hawaii and I appreciate this opportunity to testify.

The Retail Merchants of Hawaii (RMH) as founded in 1901 and is a statewide, not for profit trade organization committed to the growth and development of the retail industry in Hawaii. The retail industry is one of the largest employers in the state, employing 25% of the labor force.

RMH is opposed to HCR 102 / HR 95 Requesting That The Department Of Transportation And The City And County Of Honolulu Department Of Transportation Services Address The Problem Of Abandoned Shopping Carts On Oahu.

Retailers provide shopping carts as a convenience for their customers while they are shopping on property. Yet, Hawaii retailers experience continual losses from stolen shopping carts on a daily basis. And for some reason, it has become “acceptable” for people to take shopping carts off property to go to the bus stop, to their condos, to recycling centers, or to be used as mobile homes by the residentially challenged. These carts are NOT cheap to replace and **the people removing the carts are in fact stealing the carts with no penalties or repercussions for doing so.**

Without input from retailers, we are concerned that the rules suggested by the State Department of Transportation and City and County of Honolulu Department of Transportation Services **would NOT be fair and NOT take into consideration retailer’s trials and tribulations in trying to maintain their carts on property.** It is easy to blame and penalize retailers for the abandoned cart instead of the unknown thieves or the residentially challenged who took it. **However it is the retailers who are the victims of the theft.**

Furthermore the rules could penalize retailers who may not even own the cart but are presumed guilty because the cart was “found” near their place of business; wanting to fine retailers if they are unable to recover their stolen property within a specified amount of time. Note many retailers – especially small businesses – do NOT have the type of company vehicles needed to retrieve the carts like a pickup truck or cargo type van.

We question **why are the real thieves not fined for removing shopping carts from store property or for being in possession of any shopping carts?** We believe that if there were penalties for those who steal the carts and that these penalties were enforced, we would see less stolen shopping carts around the community.

We urge you to hold this measure. Mahalo again for this opportunity to testify.

LATE

TESTIMONY OF
LARRY S VERAY

TO

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

SUPPORT TO HCR 102 / HR 95

RELATING TO ABANDONED SHOPPING CARTS

MARCH 21, 2019

Aloha, Chair Henry Aquino and Vice Chair Troy Hashimoto, and Committee members. I am Chair for the Pearl City Neighborhood Board No. 21 and I am submitting this testimony as an individual in SUPPORT to HCR 102 / HR 95.

This resolution requests that the Department of Transportation and the City and County of Honolulu Department of Transportation Services address the problem of abandoned shopping carts on Oahu.

This problem has festered for the past decade with no agency or retail store taking responsibility or leadership to mitigate this problem. It is very concerning for me to observe our senior citizens waiting in the hot sun for people to make available a shopping cart in front of their favorite supermarket because the majority of the shopping carts have been taken off the shopping center property. Many of the homeless are responsible for the majority of the stolen shopping carts followed by lower income families who take the carts with their groceries and push the carts to their housing complexes and just discard them on the property or leave them at bus stops. I have confronted many of the store managers in Pearl City and not one of them will attempt prosecute anyone taking their shopping carts. Times probably has the best track record of not having their shopping carts stolen because of the magnetic wheel sensors they have installed on their carts similar to Walmart in Waikiki. Bottom line; we need leadership and a plan of action to mitigate stolen shopping carts.

Recommend a Task Force be stood up of selected members from State Legislature, City & County Honolulu Department of Transportation Services, Humane Resources, Police Department, Grocery and Retail Stores and Neighborhood Boards to develop a plan of action based on creative, innovative and resourceful ideas to prevent or reduce shopping cart theft from our grocery and retail stores on Oahu. This is an achievable goal.

I most strongly urge you to "APPROVE" HCR 102 / HR 95. Mahalo!

Very respectfully,

Larry S. Veray