



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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March 29, 2019

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Senate Bill 1236, SD2, HD2 - Relating to Parking for Disabled Persons

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) is the State agency that administers the statewide program on parking for persons with disabilities. DCAB strongly supports Senate Bill 1236, SD2, HD2 because it makes needed improvements to the disabled persons parking program as follows:

- Prohibits the unauthorized sale or purchase of disability parking placards and special license plates;
- Clarifies authority of enforcement officers to confiscate placards and special license plates for violations of requirements for manufacture, sale, purchase, or use; and
- Limits the exemption from parking fees to drivers with a disability who are unable to operate a parking meter or pay station because of the driver's disability and who display a distinguishing parking device, code, permit, or decal.

However, DCAB prefers the wording of House Bill 696, HD2, SD1 because it adds the following provisions:

- Amends the definition of "person with a disability" to help physicians and advanced practice registered nurses certify only applicants who are eligible to obtain a permit, but it does not change the eligibility requirements; and
- Adds the term "disability parking permit" to mean "a removable windshield placard, special license plate, temporary removable windshield placard, or distinguishing parking device, code, or placard" to eliminate the need to repeat the lengthy phrase multiple times throughout the statute.

Therefore, we request that you replace the wording of this bill with that of House Bill 696, HD2, SD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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OUR REFERENCE AP-GR

March 29, 2019

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
and Members
Committee on Finance
House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 308
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke and Members:

SUBJECT: Senate Bill No. 1236, S.D. 2, H.D. 2, Relating to Parking for Disabled Persons

I am Andre Peters, Acting Captain of the Traffic Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

Senate Bill No. 1236, S.D. 2, H.D. 2, would allow any law enforcement and commissioned volunteer enforcement officers the ability to cite and confiscate fraudulent placards.

The Revised Ordinances of Honolulu, Section 15-4.10, states that the Chief of Police shall commission special officers designated by the Director of the Department of Transportation Services to issue citations for all nonmoving traffic violations including but not limited to citations for parking and tow zone violations. These special officers are designated as parking violation clerks in the HPD. The HPD requests that the bill be amended to add in language of "special officers" to the list of authorized persons.

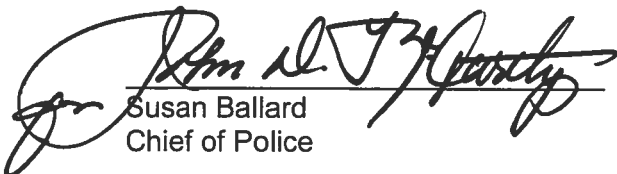
The HPD supports creating a misdemeanor offense for the sale, manufacture, alteration, or unauthorized use of valid or invalid placards.

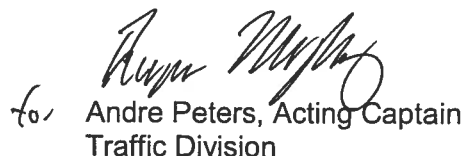
The HPD urges you to support Senate Bill No. 1236, S.D. 2, H.D. 2, Relating to Parking for Disabled Persons.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

APPROVED:

Sincerely,


Susan Ballard
Chief of Police


Andre Peters, Acting Captain
Traffic Division

Serving and Protecting With Aloha

March 28, 2019

To: House Committee on Finance

From: Bryan K. Mick

Re: SB 1236 SD 2 HD 2 Relating to the Parking Program for People with Disabilities
– Hearing on March 129 2019 at 2:30 pm

Aloha Chair Luke and committee members,

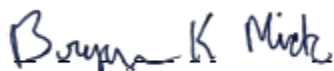
I write to you in full support of SB 1236 SD 2 HD 2. However, the language in the version that crossed over (SB 1236 SD 2) was much better than what was inserted by the prior two committees. The current language omits several distinct provisions which are designed to combat parking permit fraud and abuse. The judiciary committee should be commended for adding back in language that would restrict the free parking benefit to only those who drive and are unable to reach or operate a meter.

Free parking has become an incentive for people to obtain a permit when not qualified, alter the expiration dates on their permit, borrow a permit that was issued to someone else, or to overstay the amount of time that's legally exempted from payment (two and a half hours of the maximum time the meter allows, whichever is longer). Hawaii would be the fifth state to restrict parking in this manner, while 23 states provide no free parking at the state level. With the recent increase in parking meter rates in the urban core of Honolulu and Waikiki, a standard shift employee who uses a disability parking permit to improperly avoid paying a meter is avoiding over **\$7,000** in annual parking meter fees.

The City of Boston Inspector General estimates the City is losing between \$900,000 and \$3 million per year due to parking permit abuse. It is likely the State of Hawaii is losing that much, if not more. We have over 100,000 permittees in the state, so even if each one on average illegally avoids paying \$10 a year in parking fees, the loss is a million dollars - most of which would have been deposited into the highways fund.

If the State wants to provide transportation related subsidies for people with disabilities, it should do it in a way where all types of disabilities are eligible, not just mobility ones, and it should allow for greater safeguards against fraud and abuse than the disability parking permit system can offer. The tiered system SB 1236 SD 2 HD 2 proposes is a good compromise.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bryan K. Mick". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Bryan K. Mick

SB-1236-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 3:01:02 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kirby L. Shaw	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: