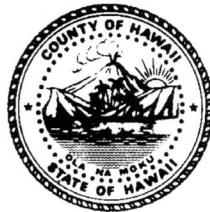


Harry Kim
Mayor



Roy Takemoto
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2603 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • (808) 961-8211 • Fax (808) 961-6553
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(808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

January 29, 2020

Representative Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair
Representative Troy N. Hashimoto, Vice Chair
Committee on Transportation

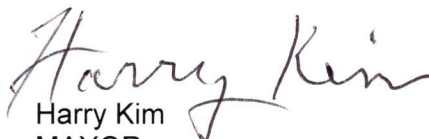
Dear Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Hashimoto, and Committee Members:

RE: HB 1729, Relating to Resgistration of Vehicles

HB 1729 would be a grant of permission to the counties, allowing them (in their discretion) to require payment of outstanding charges related to abandoned and derelict vehicles. While such a requirement might be of limited applicability, it certainly seems to be an appropriate tool that the counties should have available, in order to enhance collection of outstanding obligations.

I believe this measure was endorsed by all the county Mayors, and I ask for your favorable vote.

Respectfully Submitted,


Harry Kim
MAYOR



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
THE COUNTY OF KAUA'I

DEREK S. K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR
MICHAEL A. DAHLIG, MANAGING DIRECTOR

Testimony of Derek S.K. Kawakami
Mayor, County of Kauai

Before the
House Committee on Transportation
January 31, 2020; 10:00 am
Conference Room 423

In consideration of
House Bill 1729
Relating to Registration of Vehicles

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

The County of Kauai and I **strongly support** HB 1729, which allows the director of finance of a county to require payment of outstanding charges owed to the county for the towing, removal, or disposal of an abandoned or derelict vehicle within the county before issuing a motor vehicle certificate of registration.

The proper disposal of vehicles that are no longer in service is a challenge for the County of Kauai as well as for all of us across our islands. Our Kauai Police Department and our Finance Department work closely to address the removal and disposal of abandoned and derelict vehicles. Unfortunately, we have found that we have repeat offenders who improperly dispose of their vehicles and repeatedly register new vehicles. HB1729 is one means of helping to solve this problem.

Recently, we formed a task force to address abandoned and derelict vehicles on our island. This challenge is one of our top priorities as it is not only an environmental hazard, it is a blight for our residents and visitors who are here to enjoy and celebrate our Garden Island. Restricting the registration of vehicles who have outstanding tow charges is one mechanism we hope can be implemented in solving this problem.

Thank you for your consideration in passing this measure.





DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
THE COUNTY OF KAUA'I

DEREK S. K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR
MICHAEL A. DAHLIG, MANAGING DIRECTOR

REIKO MATSUYAMA
DIRECTOR

MICHELLE L. LIZAMA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Testimony of Reiko Matsuyama
Director of Finance, County of Kauai

Before the
House Committee on Transportation
January 31, 2020; 10:00 am
Conference Room 423

In consideration of
House Bill 1729
Relating to Registration of Vehicles

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

The Finance Department of the County of Kauai **strongly supports** HB 1729, which allows the director of finance of a county to require payment of outstanding charges owed to the county for the towing, removal, or disposal of an abandoned or derelict vehicle within the county before issuing a motor vehicle certificate of registration.

The County of Kauai, like many other jurisdictions, has a major issue with abandoned and derelict vehicles. While our Kauai Police Department (KPD) is faced with addressing the towing and removal of these vehicles, the motor vehicle division is trying to work closely with KPD to address the root cause of the issue.

In preliminary discussions with KPD, they have a difficult time enforcing the collection of outstanding towing and related costs. In addition, there are recurring offenders who litter our island with cars. When their names were mentioned in our meetings, our motor vehicle staff indicated that they are regularly in the DMV transferring and registering vehicles.

While the HRS grants the Finance Director with leverage over some outstanding citations, it does not give authority over charges related to the towing, removal, and disposal of abandoned and derelict vehicles. If we were able to turn away these recurring offenders from transferring and/or registering vehicles, it would either force them to pay the bills that are now being absorbed by KPD or it would prevent them from improperly disposing these additional vehicles.

Sincerely,

Reiko Matsuyama
Finance Director



DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

MISSION MEMORIAL BUILDING
550 SOUTH KING STREET, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-3392 FAX: (808) 768-1591
<http://www.honolulu.gov>

KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR



SHERI T. KAJIWARA
DIRECTOR

RANDY M. LEONG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

January 30, 2020

The Honorable Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair
The Honorable Troy N. Hashimoto, Vice Chair
and Members of the Committee on Transportation

The House of Representatives
State Capitol, Conference Room 423
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Aquino and Members of the Committee on Transportation:

SUBJECT: H.B. No. 1729
Relating to Registration of Vehicles

H.B. No. 1729, proposes to allow each county to require payment of outstanding charges owed to the county for towing, removal, or disposal of an abandoned vehicle before issuing a motor vehicle certificate of registration.

The Department of Customer Services (CSD) has seen a year to year increase in abandoned and derelict vehicles with little penalty to the registered owner. CSD **supports the intent** of this measure.

Currently, CSD does not require payment by the registered owner for any towing, removal, or disposal of an abandoned vehicle, as a condition for motor vehicle registration. If an abandoned vehicle is claimed by the owner, statutory tow related fees are paid to the tow contractor. If the owner does not claim the vehicle, we auction the vehicle. CSD does not recoup any fee from an abandoned vehicle unless said vehicle is purchased at the monthly City public auction. The successful bidder pays the City the bid price and separately pays the contractor the statutory tow related fees.


Abandoned vehicles typically are not claimed by the owner. The measure is calling for payment of outstanding fees as a condition precedent to the renewal. However, most people who abandon their vehicle have no intention of renewing their registration.

The Honorable Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair
The Honorable Troy N. Hashimoto, Vice Chair
and Members of the Committee on Transportation
January 30, 2020
Page 2

In keeping with the intent of this measure, CSD suggests that if a registered owner abandons their vehicle, then any towing, removal, or disposal fees may be assessed by the county, and as a condition precedent to the renewal of that specific (abandoned) vehicle or any other vehicle registered in the owner's name.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of the intent of H.B. No. 1729.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randy M. Leong". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Randy M. Leong
Deputy Director



DEREK S. K. KAWAKAMI
Mayor

MICHAEL A. DAHILIG
Managing Director

POLICE DEPARTMENT COUNTY OF KAUAI

3990 KAANA STREET, SUITE 200
LIHUE, HAWAII 96766-1268
TELEPHONE (808) 241-1600
FAX (808) 241-1604
www.kauai.gov/police



TODD G. RAYBUCK
Chief of Police

Testimony of Mark N Begley
Assistant Chief, Patrol Services Bureau
Kauai Police Department

Before the
Senate Committee on Transportation
January 30, 2020; 10:00 am
Conference Room 224

In consideration of
House Bill 1729
Relating to Registration of Vehicles

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

The Patrol Services Bureau **strongly supports** HB 1729, which would prevent the registration and transferring of vehicles for those who have outstanding towing and related charges owed to the County.

The Patrol Services Bureau of the Kauai Police Department (KPD) **strongly supports** HB1729, which allows the director of finance of a county to require payment of outstanding charges owed to the county for the towing, removal, or disposal of an abandoned or derelict vehicle within the county before issuing a motor vehicle certificate of registration.

The County of Kauai, like many other jurisdictions, has a major issue with abandoned and derelict vehicles. The financial impact on the Counties is significant. In addition to the cost for removal, clean up, storage, disposal, and personnel hours; there is also the adverse impact it has on tourism. It gravely disappoints people that spend their money to travel to our island paradises, discourages them from visiting or revisiting areas of our island, and sends horrible advertisement via word-of-mouth to other potential visitors. It also adversely impacts the quality of life for the majority of our island residents.

At KPD, we handle abandoned and derelict vehicle complaints on a daily basis, and we see firsthand how important this issue is to our residents and visitors alike. It has been extremely difficult to curtail this behavior and to enforce the collection of outstanding towing and related costs. People have learned that there is little chance that they will be held accountable if they “dump” or leave behind their unwanted cars.

The current HRS section does not grant our Finance Director the authority to levy outstanding charges related to the towing, removal, and disposal of abandoned and derelict vehicles.



Sincerely,

Mark Begley
Digitally signed by Mark Begley
Date: 2020.01.29
18:14:48 -10'00'

Mark N. Begley
Assistant Chief
Patrol Services Bureau
Kauai Police Department

