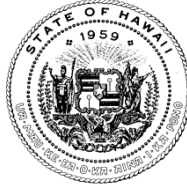


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



TESTIMONY BY:

JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

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

LATE

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

February 5, 2020
10:15 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 423

H. B. 2556
RELATING TO VEHICLES.

House Committee on Transportation

The Department of Transportation is providing **comments** on H.B. 2556.

Current statute, 286-51(b), HRS, established a special fund, The Highway Beautification and Disposal of Abandoned or Derelict Vehicles Revolving Fund, that provided the funding for the counties to remove and dispose of abandoned and derelict vehicles from public and certain private roadways. Registered owners pay a highway beautification fee each time they register their motor vehicle that is deposited into this fund.

The amendment proposes that the registered owner's driver's license be revoked if the registered owner is convicted of abandoning their vehicle. It would be difficult to correctly identify the driver's license of the registered owner because there are no matching identifiers other than name that is captured for a motor vehicle registration (MVR).

An upgrade to the MVR would be necessary to include other non-name identifiers to accurately tie requisitions to the correct license.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

HB-2556

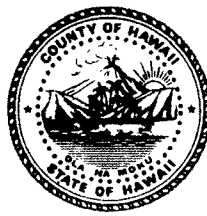
Submitted on: 2/4/2020 10:01:41 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/5/2020 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maui Mayor	Maui County Mayor's Office	Support	No

Comments:

Harry Kim
Mayor



Roy Takemoto
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawaii Office of the Mayor

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February 4, 2020

Representative Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair
Representative Troy Hashimoto, Vice Chair
Committee on Transportation
Hawai'i State Legislature

Dear Chair Aquino, Vice-Chair Hashimoto, and Committee members:

RE: HB 2556 Relating to Vehicles
HB 2598 Relating to Abandoned and Derelict Vehicles

On today's agenda there are two bills dealing with abandoned vehicles. I thank the Legislature for continuing to try to solve this perennial problem.

HB 2556 would make abandonment of a vehicle a misdemeanor, and would give our Finance Director some power to withhold an offender's future car registrations and/or temporarily suspend the person's license. This would obviously only apply in those limited cases where the wrongdoer can be identified, and I would be concerned that the wrong owner may get penalized (for example, if a person sells his/her car but the buyer never registers it, the seller would be on the hook for the fees). On the other hand, the bill might serve to discourage the bad conduct of someone who is thinking about abandoning a vehicle.

I defer to the Committee on this one.

HB 2598 would set up a Task Force to make recommendations. Since this problem is one of long standing, and seems to affect every jurisdiction, maybe bringing people together will result in some practical solutions. The bill calls for involvement of the police departments, which is good; perhaps it should also include the county departments which deal with the actual disposal of the vehicles, such as the Hawai'i County Department of Environmental Management. Either way, I support HB 2598.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harry Kim
MAYOR

Council Chair
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
Tasha Kama

Councilmembers
Riki Hokama
Kelly Takaya King
Michael J. Molina
Tamara Paltin
Shane M. Sinenci
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura



Director of Council Services
Traci N. T. Fujita, Esq.

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

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

FROM: Yuki Lei K. Sugimura
Councilmember, Upcountry Maui

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Yuki Lei K. Sugimura".

DATE: February 5, 2020

SUBJECT: **RE: HB 2556 RELATING TO VEHICLES**

I am writing in strong support of HB2556 authorizing certain measures associated with abandoned vehicles.

Abandoned vehicles are increasingly creating a blight along our roadways as well as private properties. Current programs that provide free disposal of vehicles by the Counties are not working. Vehicle owners are not taking personal responsibility of their vehicles to take them to authorized disposal centers when they are ready to be junked. Incentives need to be put into place to deter this behavior of abandoning vehicles on roadsides leaving it to the County to tow them, impound them while contacting the owner, and finally arranging for its' disposal. These abandoned vehicles attract homeless and become habitats for filth – a major concern if new communicable disease enter our State.

This measure will penalize those that abandon their cars on roadsides by restricting their ability to obtain reregistration on their other vehicles and other fines.

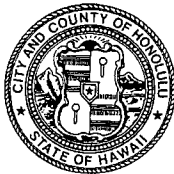
February 4, 2020
Page 2

Your strong support of this measure to remove the blight caused by abandoned vehicles in our communities is appreciated. Thank you for this opportunity to provide my opinion.

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

February 4, 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 Chari Aquino and Members of the Committee on Transportation:

SUBJECT: H.B. No. 2556
Relating to Vehicles

The Department of Customer Services (CSD) has seen a year to year increase in abandoned and derelict vehicles with no penalty to the registered owner and, therefore, **supports H.B. 2556.**

H.B. 2556 proposes to withhold and revoke vehicle registrations and driver licenses for those who abandon a vehicle under certain conditions. The assessment and collection of charges related to towing, storage, processing, and disposal of an abandoned or derelict vehicle would also apply.

The City and County of Honolulu has towed over 4,700 abandoned and derelict vehicles in calendar year 2019. CSD is in support of this measure which will hold the registered owner of the vehicle accountable for their actions.

Currently, since there are no penalties assessed to the registered owner, the general public abandons their vehicles because there are no repercussions. Operationally, city staff members are tasked with investigating, towing, storing, and auctioning of an abandoned vehicle. CSD is in support of any measure that will reduce the number of abandoned vehicles, which are left on the roadways by irresponsible owners.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of H.B. No. 2556.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Randy M. Leong".

Randy M. Leong
Deputy Director

HB-2556

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 4:05:40 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/5/2020 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mae Nakahata	Individual	Support	No

Comments: