

Testimony of the
Hawaii State Association of Counties
on
H.B. 160, H.D.1,
Relating to Registration of Vehicles.
Committee on Finance
Wednesday, March 3, 2021, 2:00 p.m.
Room 308

The Hawaii State Association of Counties (HSAC) strongly supports H.B. 160, H.D.1, which establishes a single \$2 registration fee for motor vehicles to be used by the counties for highway beautification and to defray the additional cost of disposing abandoned or derelict vehicles.

Currently, this fee is \$1 for U-drive motor vehicles and \$2 for other motor vehicles, which may be raised by the counties by ordinance up to \$10. This fee is inequitable because the use of highways and roads by U-drive vehicles is as intense, if not more intense, than other motor vehicles on our highways and roads. Changing the fee to \$2 for all vehicles would be a more equitable application of the fee.

For these reasons, HSAC supports H.B. 160, H.D.1. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on H.B. No. 160, H.D.1.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

REIKO MATSUYAMA, DIRECTOR

MICHELLE L. LIZAMA, DEPUTY DIRECTOR



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

Testimony of Reiko Matsuyama
Director of Finance, County of Kaua'i

Before the
Committee on Finance
March 3, 2021 at 2:00 pm
Conference Room 308

In consideration of
House Bill 160 HD1
Relating to the Registration of Vehicles

Honorable Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

The Finance Department of the County of Kaua'i **strongly supports** HB 160 HD1, which allows the director of finance of a county to charge u-drive vehicles the same beautification fee as any regular citizen would pay. Currently the County of Kaua'i charges \$1 for u-drive vehicles and \$5 for all others. We use this money to defray the costs of abandoned and derelict vehicles left for county disposal.

The abandoned and derelict vehicle problem is impacting the quality of life for our residents, impacts our environment, and is an eye-sore that detracts from our visitor experience. Mayor Kawakami has put together an abandoned vehicle task force which has made progress in identifying process issues. While we are making progress on addressing some of those issues, this increased fee would help to pay for the clean-up initiatives.

It is for these reasons, that we **strongly support** HB 160 HD1. Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

COUNTY COUNCIL

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March 1, 2021

TESTIMONY OF FELICIA COWDEN
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL
ON
HB 160, HD1, RELATING TO REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES
House Committee on Finance
Wednesday, March 3, 2021
2:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference
Conference Room 308

Dear Chair Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in SUPPORT of HB 160, HD1, Relating to Registration of Vehicles. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a Member of the Kaua'i County Council.

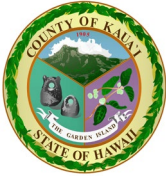
HB 160, HD1, proposes to establish a single two dollar (\$2.00) registration fee for all motor vehicles to be used by the counties for highway beautification and to defray the additional cost of disposing abandoned or derelict vehicles. Currently, the fee is one dollar (\$1.00) for U-drive motor vehicles and two dollars (\$2.00) for other motor vehicles, which may be raised by the counties by ordinance up to ten dollars (\$10.00). This fee is inequitable because the use of highways and roads by U-drive vehicles is as intense, if not more intense, than other motor vehicles on our highways and roads. Changing the fee to two dollars (\$2.00) for all vehicles would be a more equitable application of the fee.

Mahalo for considering my testimony and the work on this important Bill. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188 or via E-mail to cokcouncil@kauai.gov.

Sincerely,

FELICIA COWDEN
Councilmember, Kaua'i County Council

AMK:dmc



DEREK S. K. KAWAKAMI
Mayor

MICHAEL A. DAHILIG
Managing Director

POLICE DEPARTMENT COUNTY OF KAUAI

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TODD G. RAYBUCK
Chief of Police

Testimony of Mark N Begley
Assistant Chief, Patrol Services Bureau
Kaua'i Police Department

Before the
Committee on Finance
March 3, 2021; 2:00 pm
Conference Room 308

In consideration of
House Bills 160 and 161
Relating to Registration of Vehicles

Honorable Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

The Patrol Services Bureau supports House Bills 160 and 161, which would (1) subject U-drive motor vehicles to the same motor vehicle registration fees as other motor vehicles; and (2) allow 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.

Bill 161 will drastically reduce the large number of vehicles that are carelessly abandoned around our Counties. It will reduce the significant cost born by our taxpayers in the towing and disposal of these vehicles. It will reduce the contamination caused by abandoned vehicles that are leaking gasoline, oil and other chemicals into our soil and waterways.

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.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

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