



DEREK S. K. KAWAKAMI
Mayor

MICHAEL A. DAHLIG
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
Kaua'i Police Department

Before the
Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
February 12, 2021; 2:00 pm
Conference Room 329

In consideration of
House Bills 161, 160, and 159
Relating to Registration and Transfer of Vehicles

Honorable Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The Patrol Services Bureau supports House Bills 161, 160 and 159, which would (1) prevent the registration and transferring of vehicles for those who have outstanding towing and related charges owed to the Counties, (2) subject U-drive motor vehicles to the same motor vehicle registration fees as other motor vehicles; and (3) require a motor vehicle transferor or representative to appear in person with the transferee to execute the transfer of a motor vehicle, except in certain situations.

Bills 160 and 159 will significantly curtail the fraud that we have seen in the transfers of motor vehicles. They will drastically reduce the large number of vehicles that are carelessly abandoned around our Counties. They will reduce the significant cost born by our taxpayers in the towing and disposal of these vehicles. They will reduce the contamination caused by abandoned vehicles that are leaking gasoline, oil and other chemicals into our soil and waterways.

Notarization in vehicle transfers is a small price/effort to pay in exchange for eliminating a significant amount of fraud and illegal dumping. The benefits to our local governments, and our taxpayers, far outweigh any other concerns in this regard. It is a simple and painless process to certify additional notaries. Private companies can easily blend notary status into their existing staffing if needed.



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 fraudulently transfer a vehicle; fail to complete a transfer of a vehicle; or dump their unwanted vehicles on County and State land.

Respectfully Submitted,

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



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 Consumer Protection & Commerce
February 12, 2021 at 2:00 pm
Conference Room 329

In consideration of
House Bill 161
Relating to the Registration of Vehicles

Honorable Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The Finance Department of the County of Kaua'i **strongly supports** HB 161 HD1, 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 Kaua'i, like many other jurisdictions, has a major issue with abandoned and derelict vehicles. While our Kaua'i 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.

It is for these reasons, that we **strongly support** HB 161 HD1. Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.



SanHi

GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES

A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP

DATE: February 11, 2021

TO: Representative Aaron Ling Johanson
Chair, Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Submitted Via Capitol Website

FROM: Mihoko Ito

RE: **H.B. 161, H.D. 1 – Relating to Registration of Vehicles**
Hearing Date: Friday, February 12, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room: 329

Dear Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce:

We submit this testimony on behalf of Enterprise Holdings (“Enterprise”), which includes Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Alamo Rent-A-Car, National Car Rental, and Enterprise Commute (Van Pool).

Enterprise **submits comments** on H.B. 161, H.D. 1, 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.

Enterprise believes it is good public policy to deter individuals from abandoning vehicles on public streets and highways, and supports the intent of H.B. 161, H.D. 1.

Enterprise thanks the Committee on Transportation for amending the bill to include an exemption for vehicle owners who have their vehicles stolen or operated without permission or authorization. This ensures that those responsible for abandoning vehicles on the side of the roads are also responsible for the applicable fees, and not unknowing vehicle owners.

For these reasons above, we ask that the Committee pass H.B. 161, H.D. 1 unamended.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Testimony of the
Hawaii State Association of Counties
on
H.B. 161, H.D.1
Relating to Registration of Vehicles.
Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Friday, February 12, 2021, 2:00 p.m.
Room 329

The Hawaii State Association of Counties (HSAC) strongly supports H.B. 161, H.D.1, which authorizes a county director of finance to withhold the issuance or renewal of a certificate of registration of a motor vehicle until the county is paid for any outstanding charges owed for the towing, removal, or disposal of an abandoned or derelict vehicle, except when the vehicle is stolen or taken from the owner without the owner's approval.

H.B. 161, H.D.1, will help in addressing the problem of abandoned and derelict vehicles. The more immediate problem, however, are the costs for the removal and disposal of abandoned or derelict vehicles, which in many cases, are absorbed by the county. In the County of Kauai, for example, in the last quarter of 2019, 247 abandoned or derelict vehicles were towed. Towing charges for that quarter totaled \$66,462.

Rather than imposing the burden of additional fees on the entire community, H.B.161, H.D.1, will impose the responsibility for the outstanding charges on those vehicle owners who contribute to the problem

For these reasons, HSAC supports H.B. 161, H.D.1. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on H.B. No. 161, H.D.1.

HB-161-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 11:46:36 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/12/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carmen Guzman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We need to hold these vehicle owners accountable and go through the proper processing to insure they don't get stuck with a derelict vehicle on the side of the road accruing fees, Waianae is dumped with these and it needs to stop absolutely support this bill!