

Testimony of the
Hawaii State Association of Counties
on
H.B. 161, H.D.2
Relating to Registration of Vehicles.
Committee on Transportation
Tuesday, March 16, 2021, 3:00 p.m.
Room 224

The Hawaii State Association of Counties (HSAC) strongly supports H.B. 161, H.D.2, 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.2, 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.2, 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.2.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on H.B. No. 161, H.D.2.

HB-161-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2021 5:44:01 PM

Testimony for TRS on 3/16/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura	Testifying for Maui County Council	Support	No

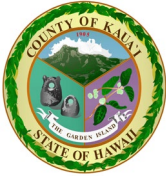
Comments:

I strongly support HB 161, HD2 and urge the Legislature to assist the Counties to take control of growing number of abandoned and derelict vehicles.

In these tight economic times the county is paying for towing and clean up of vehicles and this bill would lay the burden of responsibility upon the owner of the vehicles.

I strongly support HB 161, HD2.

Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura



DEREK S. K. KAWAKAMI
Mayor

MICHAEL A. DAHILIG
Managing Director

POLICE DEPARTMENT COUNTY OF KAUAI

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LIHUE, HAWAII 96766-1268
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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 Transportation
March 16, 2021; 3:00 pm
Conference Room 224

In consideration of
House Bill 161
Relating to Registration of Vehicles

Honorable Chair Chris Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee:

The Patrol Services Bureau supports House Bill 161, 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, except when the motor vehicle was stolen or taken without permission or authorization.

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

An Equal Opportunity Employer



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
Senate Committee on Transportation
March 16, 2021 at 3:00 pm
Conference Room 224

In consideration of
House Bill 161 HD2
Relating to the Registration of Vehicles

Honorable Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee:

The Finance Department of the County of Kaua'i **strongly supports** HB 161 HD2, 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 HD2. Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

MICHAEL P. VICTORINO
Mayor

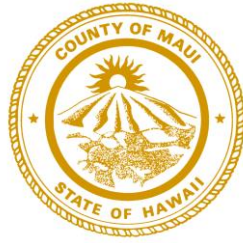
ERIC A. NAKAGAWA, P.E.
Director

SHAYNE R. AGAWA, P.E.
Deputy Director

MICHAEL P. RATTE
Solid Waste Division

SCOTT R. ROLLINS, P.E.
Wastewater Reclamation Division

TAMARA L. FARNSWORTH
Environmental Protection &
Sustainability Division



**COUNTY OF MAUI
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**
2050 MAIN STREET, SUITE 2B
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793

March 15, 2021

TESTIMONY OF ERIC A. NAKAGAWA
MAUI COUNTY, DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
Tuesday March 16, 2021, 3:00 p.m.
Conference Room 224

HB161 HD2 RELATING TO REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES

Honorable Chris Lee, Chair
Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair
Honorable members of the Committee on Transportation

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of **HB 161 HD2**.

As the agency tasked with administering and enforcing HRS. Ch. 290, the legislation pertaining to Abandoned and Derelict Vehicles on public and private roadways, we think that this bill will achieve two desired outcomes:

1. It will effectively deter owners from abandoning their vehicles, and;
2. It will assist the counties with recovering the costs associated with towing, storage, and disposal of abandoned and derelict vehicles.

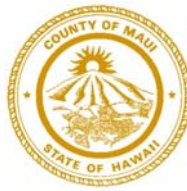
The County of Maui tows and manages a disproportionately high number of abandoned vehicles compared to the other Counties, towing and disposing of over 1500 vehicles per year. Many of these vehicles are stripped of parts and/or burnt, causing environmental and public safety hazards on all three of our inhabited islands, Maui, Lana`i, and Molokai. In Fiscal Year 2020, the Abandoned Vehicles and Metals Office towed 1650 vehicles at a cost of \$706,797.40, recouping only 11% of outstanding charges through Demands for Payment and use of a collection agency. The annual budgeted operational funds expended per year for abandoned vehicle administration and handling is over \$1,000,000, due to additional charges for vehicle cleanouts, special cleanups, and related costs. We believe this measure will cause the rate of fiscal recovery to at least quadruple within a year and will significantly reduce the burdensome task of removing abandoned and derelict vehicles from public roadways and properties

The Department of Environmental Management has already established a good working relationship with the Motor Vehicles & Licensing Division of the Department of Finance, and is prepared to successfully collaborate on implementing this law, should it pass.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in **SUPPORT** of **HB 161 HD2** so that we can look forward to cleaner, safer roadways across Hawai`i.

Michael P. Victorino
Mayor

Sananda K. Baz
Managing Director



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.mauicounty.gov

LATE

March 15, 2021

TESTIMONY OF MICHAEL P. VICTORINO
MAYOR
COUNTY OF MAUI

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
Tuesday March 16, 2021, 3:00 p.m.
Conference Room 224

HB161 HD2 RELATING TO REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES

Senator Chris Lee, Chair
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair
Honorable members of the Committee on Transportation

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of **HB 161 HD2**.

This bill 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, except when the motor vehicle was stolen or taken without permission or authorization.

The County of Maui believes that the bill will do the following:

1. It will effectively deter owners from abandoning their vehicles, and;
2. It will assist the counties with recovering the costs associated with towing, storage, and disposal of abandoned and derelict vehicles.

The County of Maui tows and manages a high number of abandoned vehicles, towing and disposing of over 1500 vehicles per year. Many of these vehicles are stripped of parts and/or burnt, causing environmental and public safety hazards on all three of our inhabited islands, Maui, Lana`i, and Molokai. In Fiscal Year 2020, the Abandoned Vehicles and Metals Office towed 1650 vehicles at a cost of \$706,797.40, recouping only 11% of outstanding charges through Demands for Payment and use of a collection agency. The annual budgeted operational funds expended per year for abandoned vehicle administration and handling is over \$1,000,000, due to additional charges for vehicle cleanouts, special cleanups, and related costs. We believe this measure will cause the rate of fiscal recovery to at least quadruple within a year and will significantly reduce the burdensome task of removing abandoned and derelict vehicles from public roadways and properties

Thank you for allowing me to testify in **SUPPORT** of **HB 161 HD2**.



SanHi

GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES

A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP

DATE: March 15, 2021

TO: Senator Chris Lee
Chair, Committee on Transportation
Submitted Via Capitol Website

FROM: Matt Tsujimura

RE: **H.B. 161, H.D. 2 – Relating to Registration of Vehicles**
Hearing Date: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.
Conference Room: 224

Dear Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee on Transportation:

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. 2, 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. 2.

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. 2 unamended.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

HB-161-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2021 5:47:48 PM

Testimony for TRS on 3/16/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bronsten Kossow	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Far too long our Hawai'i has been hurt by a small minority of individuals who carelessly leave their vehicles on the side of the road. Knowingly forcing the local municipality to pick-up the cost. Please support this measure.

LATE

HB-161-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 12:45:57 PM
Testimony for TRS on 3/16/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Madge Schaefer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this Bill which will transfer costs for junking vehicles from the taxpayers to the people who dump. Maui taxpayers pay over \$700,000 a year for disposal of junked by the side of the road "Maui cruisers". Thank you.