



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



March 16, 2021
1:00 P.M.
State Capitol, Teleconference

**H.B. 601, H.D. 2
RELATING TO THE TRAFFIC CODE**

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** H.B. 601, H.D. 2 which proposes to amend the statewide traffic code to allow for the County Chiefs of Police to designate county employees to issue citations for traffic violations.

Certain locations on the State Highway system are located in the vicinity of recreation areas which are attractions to residents and visitors alike. Many of these attractions lack adequate facilities to accommodate the often-heavy demand for parking, and as a result, vehicles are often parked along the State highway in locations which result in hazards to pedestrians, cyclists and motorists. In response, DOT has coordinated with local law enforcement in the establishment of No Parking zones to address these hazards. While local law enforcement has played a significant role in supporting the No Parking zones by issuing citations, resources are limited such that regular enforcement of the No Parking zones is not feasible. H.B. 601, H.D. 2 provides an opportunity for additional manpower to issue parking citations in these areas, which will enhance the safety of the State Highways for all users.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR

MICHAEL A. DAHILIG, MANAGING DIRECTOR



Testimony of Michael A. Dahilig Managing Director, County of Kauai

Before the
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
March 16, 2021; 1:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference

In consideration of
House Bill 601 HD2
Relating to the Traffic Code

Honorable Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair English, and Members of the Committee:

The County of Kaua'i **strongly supports** HB 601 HD2 which amends the statewide traffic code to allow for the county chiefs of police to designate county employees to issue citations for traffic violations.

During non-pandemic times, our state and county parks and beaches are overwhelmed with residents and visitors alike. Often parking restrictions or regulations are not in place or are ignored by people eager to enjoy our great outdoors whether it be our beautiful hiking trails or sandy beaches. With this, cars are often left dangerously parked on our state highways and county roads.

With a shortage in police officers in our Kaua'i Police Department and on police forces across our islands, we are challenged with addressing these parking violations. By adding capacity with designated city and county employees' ability to cite cars parked or stopped in violation of state traffic laws, we may tackle and deter these behaviors.

We are grateful for the assistance the Legislature has provided thus far in protecting resource areas that are heavily impacted by tourism, and appreciate this next step in providing the needed tools to adequately manage and protect our sensitive places while addressing community safety.

Thank you for your consideration in passing this measure.



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

RANDY PERREIRA, Executive Director • Tel: 808.543.0011 • Fax: 808.528.0922

The Thirty-First Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

March 16, 2021

H.B. 601, H.D. 2 – RELATING TO THE TRAFFIC CODE

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO provides comments on H.B. 601, H.D. 2 which amends the statewide traffic code to authorize County Police Chiefs to designate other county employees, such as trained county staff or park rangers to cite for certain traffic violations. This is not a daily function for positions outside of law enforcement and designating this task to other county employees significantly impacts an employee's condition of employment, and the terms must be negotiated and mutually agreed upon. It also raises issues of liability for affected employees and the counties.

Law Enforcement Officers have been trained and possess the skill set to enforce and address violations in accordance with law. Further discussions are necessary to assess which trained county staff are being considered to perform these tasks.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on H.B. 601, H.D. 2.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director

HB-601-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2021 8:58:54 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/16/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chipper Wichman	Testifying for National Tropical Botanical Garden	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, March 16, 2021
TIME: 1:00 p.m.
PLACE: Via Videoconference

Dear Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair and Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair and members of the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs:

I am STONGLY in support of HB 601 HD2 Relating to Traffic (e.g., Meter Maid Bill) as it will provide new tools to help our communities deal with the often-large number of cars whose drivers completely disregard the no parking zones set up to ensure the safety of the public and help manage visitor numbers in our community. I am testifying today as the President of the National Tropical Botanical Garden which operates four botanical gardens in Hawaii including two that are heavily impacted by illegally parked cars.

One of these gardens is Limahuli Garden and Preserve which is located on the north shore of Kauai immediately adjacent to HÄ• 'ena State Park. As a result I have been very involved with supporting Rep Nadine Nakamura's efforts to establish the No Parking Zones in HÄ• 'ena to help manage the thousands of visitors that overwhelm our community every day.

I am supportive of the compromises and changes that have been made and which are now represented in HD2 and I strongly urge you to pass this bill and support it becoming law. This bill will ultimately improve safety for all highway users and pedestrians and minimize negative impacts of illegally parked cars to surrounding neighborhoods.

Because we also have a garden in Hana, Maui, I know that Senator English is very interested in managing the overwhelming number of visitors that come to Wainapanapa State Park and I believe that this bill could prove to be very useful with supporting the paradigm shift taking place there!

Mahalo for your support of HB601 HD2 it will make a huge difference!!!!

Aloha no, Chipper Wichman, Ph.D., FLS, President

NATIONAL TROPICAL BOTANICAL GARDEN

The mission of the National Tropical Botanical Garden is to enrich life through discovery, scientific research, conservation, and education by perpetuating the survival of plants, ecosystems, and cultural knowledge of tropical regions.

LATE

HB-601-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 1:20:21 PM
Testimony for PSM on 3/16/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chad Taniguchi	Testifying for Hawaii Bicycling League	Support	No

Comments:

The Hawaii Bicycling League supports HB601HD2 to allow civilians to write parking tickets.

Incorrect parking is many times unsafe parking and causes confusion on our streets. We need to follow rules and have order for maximum safety.

My apologies for late testimony.

HB-601-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2021 3:45:58 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/16/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

These people are not Qualified to do this job and you know this.

HB-601-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2021 11:37:34 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/16/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carl Imperato	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly urge you to support HB 601 HD2 (HSCR 944).

Illegal parking has for a long time created serious congestion and safety problems on Kauai's north shore. It is well-known that the lack of a sufficient number of police officers to enforce parking regulations further encourages drivers to ignore parking regulations, secure in the knowledge that it is very unlikely that they will be cited.

By enabling county police departments to designate other county employees to issue citations, HB 601 HD2 (HSCR 944) would help to restore credibility to the state's parking regulations, increase compliance with those regulations, and reduce congestion and increase safety along the affected highways and roads.

It is very clear that there is a great need for this long-overdue legislation, that its passage would be in the public interest, and that there will only be benefits - and no harms - if this legislation is passed. Therefore, if there are any implementation details that need to be worked out, they can certainly be dealt with after this legislation is approved.

For these reasons, please vote in favor of HB 601 HD2 (HSCR 944).

HB-601-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2021 12:13:23 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/16/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chad Taniguchi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this common sense method to enforce our laws by allowing trained civilian employees to write parking tickets, since such ticket writing does not require the skills and training of a police officer.

This frees the police to focus more on more serious problems that require police officer training.

This is in line with using automated camera enforcement of red light running violations. Use the appropriate personnel and technology to make our laws enforceable effectively.

Our streets and communities become safer overall when ALL our laws are enforced and taken seriously.

Mahalo for passing this bill in committee.

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair English and Members of the Committee:

I support the passage of HB 601, Relating to the Traffic Code

Currently, the law requires that tickets for parking infractions of the Statewide Traffic Code be issued by police officers. At the north end of Kuhio Highway on Kauai, which is not subject to regular police patrols, people would blatantly violate the Code's parking restrictions and occasionally block the road. This bill will authorize civilian county employees to issue parking citations for violations of the Code in remote areas and allow the police to focus on more serious offenses.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Peter Morimoto