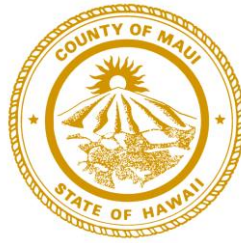


MICHAEL P. VICTORINO
Mayor
ERIC A. NAKAGAWA, P.E.
Director
SHAYNE R. AGAWA, P.E.
Deputy Director
MICHAEL KEHANO, P.E.
Solid Waste Division
SCOTT R. ROLLINS, P.E.
Wastewater Reclamation Division
TAMARA L. FARNSWORTH
Environmental Protection &
Sustainability Division



**COUNTY OF MAUI
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

2145 KAOHU STREET, SUITE 102
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793

March 15, 2022

TESTIMONY OF TAMARA L. FARNSWORTH
COUNTY OF MAUI, MANAGER OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION & SUSTAINABILITY
DIVISION

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
Thursday, March 17, 2022, 3:15 p.m.
Via Videoconference

In consideration of **HOUSE BILL 1412 HD 2 RELATING TO ABANDONED VEHICLES**

Honorable Senator Chris Lee, Chair
Honorable Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Chair
Honorable Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair
Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the Committee on Transportation
Honorable Members of the Committee on Government Operations

The County of Maui Department of Environmental Management stands in **SUPPORT of HB 1412 HD 2** which relates to abandoned vehicles and minimum distance.

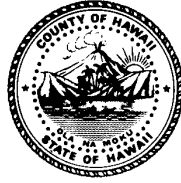
This bill will help counties to address vehicles in instances where non-operational vehicles are being pushed or towed short distances in order to avoid removal by the county. The bill will allow counties to designate the distances that are appropriate for each of their geographic and population densities, as well as to develop our own methods of accounting for those distances. Rural areas may need a greater allowance of distance than islands that are more urban or densely populated. Overall, this bill will allow counties to address certain abandoned and derelict vehicles with more efficiency and timeliness. We do think the problem is significant enough to warrant new legislation.

Therefore, we urge this committee to pass this bill in order to strengthen HRS Ch. 290 to allow the counties to determine best practices for vehicles that are clearly abandoned or derelict, but being tampered with by those who would circumvent the law.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in support of HB 1412 HD 2.**

Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor

Lee Lord
Managing Director



Ramzi I. Mansour
Director

Brenda Iokepa-Moses
Deputy Director

County of Hawai'i

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

345 Kekūanāo'a Street, Suite 41 · Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 · cohdem@hawaiiicounty.gov

Ph: (808) 961-8083 · Fax: (808) 961-8086

March 14, 2022

Sen. Chris Lee, Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation

Sen. Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Government Operations

Chair Lee, Chair Moriwaki, and Committee Members,

The County of Hawai'i Department of Environmental Management supports **HB 1412, HD2**, which allows the counties to remove existing ambiguity in the statute, which can impede the enforceability of towing laws.

Abandoned vehicles are a challenge in all counties and I appreciate this effort to provide clarity for the ultimate goal of a clean, safe, and healthy island environment.

Sincerely,

Ramzi Mansour,
Director



THE SENATE
THE THIRTY FIRST LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2022

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
Senator Chris Lee, Chair
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Chair
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING
HB 1412, HD2
Thursday, March 17, 2022
3:15 p.m.
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

The Hawaii Council of Mayors supports H. B. 1412, which requires the counties to provide a minimum distance a vehicle must be moved within a specified timeframe after a vehicle is initially inspected for abandonment to avoid an official classification of abandonment.

We urge the legislature to support the counties in which the vehicle is located to establish an ordinance to define abandonment in accordance with distance requirements and specified timeframe.

Abandoned vehicles on public streets create widespread environmental issues as well as unsafe and unhealthy conditions for Hawaii residents. The existing law creates problems with a loophole that it may be deemed abandoned but no longer classified as abandoned if it moves an inch or two from the location where it was noticed abandoned.

The Hawaii Council of Mayors urge your support with our efforts to keep our environments safe and healthy. Thank you.

Hawaii Council of Mayors (HCOM)

Derek Kawakami, Mayor, Kauai County
Rick Blangiardi, Mayor, City and County of Honolulu
Mitch Roth, Mayor, Hawaii County
Michael P. Victorino, Mayor, Maui County

Michael P. Victorino, HCOM President (808-270-7855)



Testimony of the

Hawai'i State Association of Counties

on

H.B. No. 1412, H.D.2

Relating to Abandoned Vehicles.

Committee on Transportation and Government Operations

Thursday, March 17, 2022, 3:15 p.m.

The Hawai'i State Association of Counties (HSAC) strongly **supports** H.B. 1412, H.D.2, which clarifies the definition of "abandoned vehicle."

A vehicle is "abandoned" if it is defined to be abandoned by an ordinance of the county in which the vehicle is located. In the absence of such an ordinance, a vehicle is "abandoned" if it is left unattended for a continuous period of more than twenty-four hours and it is unlawfully parked on any public highway or other public property or private lands defined as a setback, shoulder, easement, or right of way that is adjacent to or part of a public highway. H.B. 1412, H.D.2, requires the counties to specify a minimum distance a vehicle must be moved within a specified time to avoid being classified as abandoned. The objective of H.B. 1412, H.D.2, is to expedite the removal of abandoned vehicles from public streets.

For these reasons the Hawai'i State Association of Counties strongly supports H.B. 1412, H.D.1, and requests your favorable consideration of this measure.



March 15, 2022

Testimony of Lauren Armstrong
Maui MPO Executive Director
On behalf of Maui MPO Policy Board

Before the Senate Committee on Transportation and Senate Committee on Government Operations

March 17, 2022 at 3:15pm
Conference Room 224

HB1412 HD2 RELATING TO ABANDONED VEHICLES

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

Honorable Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Chair
Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Government Operations

The Maui MPO Policy Board **supports** HB1412 HD2. The measure would require counties to define vehicle abandonment with distance requirements and specified timeframe. The existing law creates problems with a loophole that a vehicle be no longer classified as abandoned if it moves slightly from the location where it was noticed abandoned.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lauren Armstrong".

Lauren Armstrong
Executive Director, Maui MPO
On behalf of the Maui MPO Policy Board

COUNTY COUNCIL

Arryl Kaneshiro, Chair
Mason K. Chock, Vice Chair
Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.
Felicia Cowden
Bill DeCosta
Luke A. Evslin
KipuKai Kualii



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

Jade K. Fountain-Tanigawa, County Clerk
Scott K. Sato, Deputy County Clerk

Telephone: (808) 241-4188
Facsimile: (808) 241-6349
E-mail: cokcouncil@kauai.gov

Council Services Division
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209
Lihu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96766

March 15, 2022

TESTIMONY OF MASON K. CHOCK
COUNCIL VICE CHAIR, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL
ON
HB 1412, HD2, RELATING TO ABANDONED VEHICLES
Senate Committee on Transportation
Senate Committee on Government Operations
Thursday, March 17, 2022
3:15 p.m.
Via Videoconference
Conference Room 224

Dear Chair Lee, Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1412, HD2, Relating to Abandoned Vehicles. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as Council Vice Chair of the Kaua'i County Council and as a member of the County's Abandoned Vehicle Task Force.

I wholeheartedly support the intent of HB 1412, HD2, to address the problem of abandoned vehicles in our communities. Abandoned vehicles are a public eyesore for the affected communities and pose environmental issues creating unsafe conditions for Hawai'i residents. Additionally, abandoned vehicles pose a financial burden to the State and counties as it relates to the disposal costs and outstanding fines.

HB 1412, HD2, would better define the minimum distance that a vehicle must be moved within a specified amount of time to not be considered abandoned, with the distance specification determined by each county. HB 1412, HD2, will help to address the issues with abandoned vehicles and includes each county's input, which reflects a conscious effort by stakeholders representing each island.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide testimony. 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,

MASON K. CHOCK
Council Vice Chair, Kaua'i County Council

AMK:lc

HB-1412-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 7:07:51 PM

Testimony for TRS on 3/17/2022 3:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ralph Boyea | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Chairs Lee and Moriwki

And Transportation and Government Operations Committee members,

I am writing in support of HB 1412 HD2.

Please assist the Counties in enforcing abandoned vehicle legislation by passing HB1412. HD2

Thank you.

Ralph Boyea

HB-1412-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 11:08:46 PM

Testimony for TRS on 3/17/2022 3:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Judith Ann Tang | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I am in support of HB1412. Abandoned cars are such a problem all over Hawaii. Laws have to be changed to stop the dumping of cars around the state. If people are allowed to get away with dumping their cars without any consequences, Hawaii will look like a third-world country. Please pass bill HB1412 and clean up our streets.

HB-1412-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 7:51:55 AM

Testimony for TRS on 3/17/2022 3:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Brian F Jordan | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

There have to be consequences and actions which will reduce abandoning vehicles/ This is a step in that direction. Aerial surveys of make shift junk yards on property unknown to the owner is another issue to bring up. `

HB-1412-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 5:10:53 PM

Testimony for TRS on 3/17/2022 3:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Barbara Cigainero | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Dear Committee Chair and Members: Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB1412. I live in the Puna Region of Hawaii Island. We have a horrible problem with abandoned vehicles. One of the problems that the police face in dealing with enforcement of the current law is that if the vehicle is moved just a few feet, the police feel that they have to start the clock over again on the time needed to move the vehicle or have it towed. This is a loop hole that has created a barrier for law enforcement. This bill would close that loop hole and allow the Police Department to enforce the law without playing games with the party that abandoned the vehicle. I urge your support and thank you for your consideration.

Barbara Cigainero, Keaau, HI 96749

HB-1412-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 8:27:00 AM

Testimony for TRS on 3/17/2022 3:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Joan Pieper | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

This is a good measure providing the County inspects the vehicle as soon as it is reported abandoned.

HB-1412-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 9:13:14 AM

Testimony for TRS on 3/17/2022 3:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Renee Rabb | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Testimony in Support of HB1412 moving abandoned vehicles a short distance.

I support HB 1412 which closes a loophole that allows people to move their abandoned cars a few inches to avoid the vehicle being classified as abandoned. This is should have been fixed years ago.

Abandoned cars are a real problem and we need to get them off the roadway as quickly and easily as possible.

Renee Rabb

Keaau, HI 96749

HB-1412-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 2:41:09 PM

Testimony for TRS on 3/17/2022 3:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Julia Lindbergh | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I support HB 1412. Julia Lindbergh, RN

LATE

HB-1412-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 7:26:13 AM

Testimony for TRS on 3/17/2022 3:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Karen Hester | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I work to remove abandoned vehicles in lower Puna and many of these vehicles are parked along side the easement. Many of these vehicles are more than the current 10 feet from easement so having local districts decide distance would be a great help.