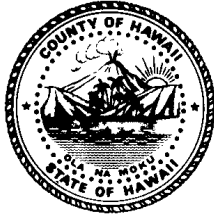


HEATHER L. KIMBALL

Council Member

*Chair, Committee on Governmental Operations,
Relations and Economic Development
Council District 1*



Contact Information

(808) 961-8828

(808) 961-8018 (staff)

heather.kimball@hawaiiicounty.gov

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

*County of Hawai'i
Hawai'i County Building
25 Aupuni Street, Suite 1402
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720*

TO: Honorable Representative Aquino , Chair
House Committee on Transportation

FROM: Heather L. Kimball
Council Member, District 1

DATE: February 1, 2022

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT HB 1413, Abandoned Vehicles - Charges and Fines, Registration Transfers.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to the director of finance of a county to require payment of outstanding charges and fines owed to the county relating to the disposition of an abandoned vehicle within the county by the registered owner of the abandoned vehicle before issuing a certificate of registration or completing a transfer of ownership.

I **SUPPORT** this measure for the following reasons:

1. Abandoned vehicles are a significant public and environmental health and safety concern in Hawai'i County.
2. In order to address the blight of abandoned vehicles in Hawai'i County we need a combination of improved legal enforcement mechanisms and financial resources.
3. This legislation will provide a mechanism by which vehicles owners can be held financially responsible for abandoned vehicles through existing administrative processes within the counties.

For these reasons, I ask for your **SUPPORT** of HB 1413.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather Kimball".

Heather Kimball
Hawai'i County Council Member

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 and Commerce
February 10, 2022 at 2:00 pm
329 Via Videoconference

In consideration of
House Bill 1413 HD1
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 **supports** HB 1413 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 **support** HB 1413 HD1. Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

Patti Cook

Box 6960, Kamuela, HI 96743
(808) 937-2833 – cookshi@aol.com

February 1, 2022

**TO: Hawai'i State House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
Committee Members**

RE: Hearing @ 2PM, Thurs., Feb. 10, 2022

HB 1412 & HB 1413 – SUPPORT

Thank you for holding this hearing to discuss these two bills to address the alarming increase in abandoned vehicles across the state. The bills would help close loopholes in existing laws and give the counties and their respective employees the tools needed to hold owners of abandoned vehicles accountable for disposal.

Please do all you can to expedite these bills to ensure passage this session.

Mahalo for your time and for listening to community concerns.

Patti Cook

HB-1413-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 2:45:26 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/10/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Stephanie Bath	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill

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

February 9, 2022

TESTIMONY OF MASON K. CHOCK
COUNCIL VICE CHAIR, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL
ON
HB 1413, HD1, RELATING TO ABANDONED VEHICLES
House Committee on consumer Protection & Commerce
Thursday, February 10, 2022
2:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference
Conference Room 329

Dear Chair Johanson and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1413, HD1, 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 1413, HD1, 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 1413, HD1, would establish additional requirements for selling a vehicle, requiring both buyer and seller to provide signatures and addresses when transferring ownership of the vehicle. This will encourage more accurate and traceable information. HB 1413, HD1, 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:ss

LATE

HB-1413-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 8:58:52 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/10/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tamara Farnsworth	County of Maui Department of Environmental Management	Support	No

Comments:

We are writing in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB 1413**

This bill will serve to put a “hold” on registrations or license renewals for those who owe outstanding charges on abandoned vehicles for which they are named as the registered owner. This bill will be crucial and most effective because it will to act as a deterrent and preventative measure as well hold those who abandon vehicles accountable for the expenses incurred by their actions. The bill also protects those whose vehicles were reported stolen.

Counties have faced difficulties in recovering fees, even when accounts are sent to collection agencies. County of Maui currently only recovers about 14% of outstanding balances. While this is of great fiscal significance, even more important may be the aspect of deterrence. When vehicle owners are aware that they will be prevented from making a new car legal and held financially accountable for abandoning their vehicle wrongfully, they may be more likely to dispose of their old vehicles safely and legally through County programs that can help them to do so.

We believe that this bill will be extremely effective as a preventative measure, which is why we have been advocating for this type of legislation for many years. We strongly urge this committee to pass this bill without reservation in order to recover costs and significantly decrease the number of abandoned vehicles that must be addressed on Hawai`i.

Therefore, we strongly urge this committee to pass this bill without reservation in order to recover costs and significantly decrease the number of abandoned vehicles that must be addressed in Hawai`i.

For reference, I serve as the County of Maui Division Manager for Environmental Protection & Sustainability, where the Abandoned Vehicles Program is housed.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on this matter.



LATE

Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

Rep. Aaron Ling Johnson, Chair

Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Rep. Henry J. C. Aquino Rep. Dee Morikawa
Rep. Sharon E. Har Rep. Richard H. K. Onishi
Rep. Mark J. Hashem Rep. David A. Tarnas
Rep. Sam Satoru Kong Rep. Lauren Matsumoto
Rep. John M. Mizuno

Testimony of Hawaii Council of Mayors

on

H.B. 1413

Relating to Abandoned Vehicles

Abandoned Vehicles; Outstanding Charges and Fines; Motor Vehicle Registration; Vehicle
Transfer of Ownership; Driver's License

Wednesday, February 10, 2022

2:00 P.M.

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

ROOM 329

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

The Hawaii Council of Mayors strongly supports H.B. 1413 which allows the director of finance of a county to require payment of outstanding charges and fines owed to the county relating to the disposition of an abandoned vehicle within the county by the registered owner of the abandoned vehicle before issuing a certificate of registration or completing a transfer of ownership, except under certain circumstances. It further requires the county directors to notify the appropriate county examiner of drivers of individuals who have outstanding charges and fines owed to the county relating to the disposition of an abandoned vehicle, who shall have their licenses revoked, suspended, or prohibited from being renewed.

This legislation will effectively deter vehicle owners from abandoning their vehicles and will assist counties to recover the high cost of towing, storage and disposal of abandoned and derelict vehicles. Counties tow and manage a disproportionately high number of abandoned vehicles per year. Abandoned vehicles cause public safety hazards on our public streets and islands. Operational funds expended per year per county varies but can average approximately \$1,000,000.00, due to additional cost for vehicle cleanouts, special cleanups, and related costs. This measure will significantly assist the counties with recouping expenses of removing abandoned and derelict vehicles from public roadways and properties.

Thank you for allowing the Hawaii Council of Mayors to testify in support of Bill 1413.

Hawaii Council County of Mayors

Derek Kawakami, Mayor, Kauai County

Rick Blangiardi, Mayor, City and County of Honolulu

Mitch Roth, Mayor, Mayor, Hawaii County

Michael P. Victorino, Mayor, Maui County

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

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@hawaiicounty.gov

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

February 10, 2022

Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair, and
Members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce,

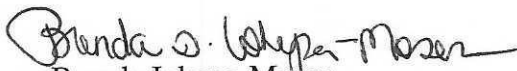
LATE

Chair Johanson and Committee Members,

The County of Hawai'i Department of Environmental Management **supports HB 1413, HD1**, to address the problem of abandoned vehicles in all counties.

While this measure primarily impacts the operations of the Finance Department, to which we will defer, abandoned vehicles are a visual blight on our landscape, degrade our island environment, and burden taxpayers with the cost of disposal. DEM supports the intent of this bill to ensure that the scofflaws who abandon these vehicles are responsible for its proper disposal.

Sincerely,


Brenda Iokepa-Moses
Deputy Director

LATE

HB-1413-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 12:15:38 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/10/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Todd Reilly Sr	Nanawale BOD	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

This measure is considered essential to stop the tsunami of abandoned vehicles overtaking our neighborhood. Thank you for your support of this measure and our community.

Mahalo

Todd Reilly Sr

Nanawale BOD

LATE

HB-1413-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 7:57:07 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/10/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Barbara Cigainero	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Committee Chair and Members: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 1413. I strongly support this legislation. Abandoned vehicles are a growing problem in the Puna Region of the Big Island. There are areas of the region that look like they have been bombed because of the numerous vehicles that are first stripped of parts after being abandoned and then often set on fire to complete the carnage. These abandoned autos remain in place for long periods of time creating blight and is demoralizing for residents of the areas affected. There needs to be appropriate penalties that are enforced to stop this blight. I urge you to support HB 1413.

LATE

HB-1413-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 10:11:18 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/10/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
P Hauoli'ipo Wright	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I fully agree that the director of finance of a county should require the registered owner of a vehicle to pay any outstanding charges and fines owed to the county relating to the disposition of an abandoned vehicle before issuing a certificate of registration or completing a transfer of ownership, except under certain circumstances. Further, considering that the County of Hawaii (at least) assists each registered owner with 2 "no charge" vehicle disposals per year, I also agree that the county examiner of drivers be allowed to suspend, revoke, or prohibit the renewal of the driver's license of that owner.

LATE

I don't have time to log on right now but here's my testimony you can copy and paste or do whatever with

Re: abandoned vehicles, this is a huge problem in Puna district where I live and work. I think there's a few related issues.

One if car theft, which is also a huge problem here. We need a task force with the police to go after car thieves and not brush it off

bc alot of the junk cars are stolen, torn apart (thieves take what they want) then they dump the rest of the car.

Another issue is making sure who actually owns it and giving fines to the proper person who dumped the vehicle,

If someone got their car stolen then ripped and dumped, then the owner shouldnt' be liable, the thief should be,

we need a system to make sure the criminal gets the fine/punishment not the victim of the crime.

another issue is poor people who have cars they cannot afford to repair just abandon them bc they also don't have \$500 to get it towed,

to this end, we need a local recycling plant that can recylce old cars and pick them up

that's what I see as solutions,

thanks,

Rebecca Corby

Rebecca Corby, Principal Broker- RB #23646

Turquoise Hawaii Real Estate- RB#23647

808-354-9303 RebeccaCorby@gmail.com

www.TurquoiseHawaii.com

LATE

Peter Pauiole

What do we need to do to get rid of those abandoned vehicles? There's so much. Who ever owned the car last should be charged.

Right now I have 4 abandoned vehicles on my street. It is an eye sore. I used to take care of cutting the grass by myself but now I can't because of the vehicles. I like it when it's clean.

I hope that they can find a way to clean it. I know the persons who abandon it but when I said something to them, they say it's not their car. It's their responsibility. My last vehicle I sold, I took them to the DMV and made sure it was turned over to them at the DMV.

I support HB 1412, HB 1413, HB 1414

LATE

HB-1413-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 12:21:43 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/10/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Becky Jones	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill as there is currently not enough incentive to deter those who abandon vehicles. The biggest problem with have is not enough meaningful enforcement and this is a step in the right direction. Simply fining and then turning unpaid fines over to collections is meaningless.

HB-1413-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 1:41:11 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/10/2022 2:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
william t mcclellan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Abandoned vehicles in puna have been an issue for the 37 years I've lived here,

With electric vehicles becoming a thing that are 100% recyclable, but this also means there's going to be a lot of oil fired cars that people are going to feel ashamed to be driving and then there's the people that are going to go kicking and screaming and collect parts from old vehicles so that they can keep their oil powered vehicles alive for as long as possible and it's likely to be popular to have a junkyard full of parts that you can sell for as much as you would like, but in short what I'm saying is the problem is going to get much worse in the next 10 to 15 years then it's ever been.

HB-1413-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 1:43:54 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/10/2022 2:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Julia Lindbergh	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am IN favor of HB 1413 that representative Iilagan has presented.

Thank you very much.

Julia Lindbergh

LATE

HB-1413-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 1:55:19 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/10/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
David Boulais	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill.