



THE SENATE THE THIRTY FIRST LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2022

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

On

HB 1413, HD2

Tuesday, April 5, 2022

10:05 a.m.

Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

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 of Mayors – HCOM

Derek Kawakami, Mayor, County of Kauai

Rick Blangiardi, Mayor, City and County of Honolulu

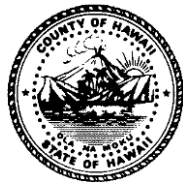
Mitch Roth, Mayor, County of Hawaii

Michael P. Victorino, Mayor, County of Maui

Michael P. Victorino, President, HCOM

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

April 4, 2022

Sen. Karl Rhoads, Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Chair Rhoads, Chair Dela Cruz, and Committee Members,

The County of Hawai'i Department of Environmental Management supports HB 1413, HD2, to address the problem of abandoned vehicles in all counties.

While this measure primarily impacts the operations of the counties' finance departments, 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 their proper disposal.

Sincerely,

Ramzi Mansour
Director, Department of Environmental Management
County of Hawai'i

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

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

April 4, 2022

TESTIMONY OF MASON K. CHOCK
COUNCIL VICE CHAIR, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL
ON
HB 1413, HD2, RELATING TO ABANDONED VEHICLES
AND
HB 1414, HD1, RELATING TO ABANDONED VEHICLES
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Tuesday, April 5, 2022
10:05 a.m.
Via Videoconference
Conference Room 211

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1413, HD2 and HB 1414, HD1 Relating to Abandoned Vehicles. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as Vice Chair of the Kaua'i County Council and as a member of the County's Abandoned Vehicle Task Force.

Abandoned and derelict vehicles are a widespread problem on Hawai'i's streets, creating safety and health conditions for the State of Hawai'i. Contributing to this problem is the ease of abandoning vehicles and the lack of deterrence for the abandonment of vehicles. Additionally, abandoned vehicles pose a financial burden to the State and counties as it relates to the disposal costs and outstanding fines.

I support HB 1413, HD2 and HB 1414, HD1 to address the problem of abandoned vehicles in our communities.

HB 1413, HD2 would establish additional requirements for selling a vehicle.

- Requiring, as a condition for the registration or transfer of ownership of a motor vehicle, the payment of outstanding charges and fines relating to the disposition of an abandoned vehicle; and
- Requiring the notification of the examiner of drivers to suspend, revoke, or prohibit renewal of the driver's license of individuals with outstanding charges and fines owed to the county relating to the disposition of an abandoned vehicle.

Chair Rhoads, Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committees
Re: HB 1413, HD2 and HB 1414, HD1, Relating to Abandoned Vehicles
April 4, 2022
Page 2

HB 1414, HD1, proposes to remedy this problem by subjecting the owner of a vehicle that is determined to be abandoned or derelict to a tiered system of fines.

Collectively, these bills will begin to help address the issues surrounding abandoned vehicles.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1413, HD2 and HB 1414, HD1. 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mason K. Chock', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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

AAO:dmc

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 Judiciary
Committee on Ways and Means
April 5, 2022 at 10:05 am
016 Via Videoconference

In consideration of
House Bill 1413 HD2
Relating to the Registration of Vehicles

Honorable Chairs Rhoads and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Keohokalole and Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committees:

The Finance Department of the County of Kaua'i **supports** HB 1413 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.

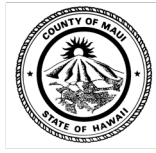
It is for these reasons, that we **support** HB 1413 HD2. Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

Council Chair
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
Tasha Kama

Councilmembers
Gabe Johnson
Kelly Takaya King
Michael J. Molina
Tamara Paltin
Shane M. Sinenci
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura



COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

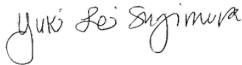
Director of Council Services
Traci N. T. Fujita, Esq.

LATE

April 5, 2022

TO: Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: 
Yuki Lei Sugimura
Councilmember

DATE: April 4, 2022

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT FOR HB 1413 HD2, RELATING TO ABANDONED VEHICLES**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to allow county directors of finance to require payment of outstanding charges and fines owed to the county relating to the disposition of an abandoned vehicle prior to issuing a certificate of registration or completing a transfer of ownership.

I SUPPORT this measure as a means to address the growing number of abandoned vehicles in Hawaii. With numerous outstanding cases of unpaid fines relating to abandoned vehicles, counties are left to foot the ever-rising cost of disposing abandoned vehicles. HB 1413 helps deter the act by providing some recourse for the counties to collect on outstanding fines. A higher rate of collection will also better fund the ongoing disposition of abandoned vehicles.

For the foregoing reasons, I SUPPORT this measure.



Testimony of the

Hawai'i State Association of Counties
on
H.B. No. 1413, H.D.2
Relating to Abandoned Vehicles.

LATE

Committee on Judiciary/Committee on Ways and Means
Tuesday, April 5, 2022, 10:05 a.m.

The Hawai'i State Association of Counties (HSAC) strongly supports H.B. 1413, H.D.2, which:

- Requires, as a condition for the registration or transfer of ownership of a motor vehicle, the payment of outstanding charges and fines relating to the disposition of an abandoned vehicle; and
- Requires the notification of the examiner of drivers to suspend, revoke, or prohibit renewal of the driver's license of individuals with outstanding charges and fines owed to the county relating to the disposition of an abandoned vehicle.

The growing volume and number of complaints about abandoned vehicles taxes the counties ability to post, tow and dispose of abandoned vehicles in a timely and efficient manner, and the costs relating to abandoned/derelect vehicles continue to grow. The counties need the authority to levy and collect all charges related to towing, removal, and disposal of abandoned and derelect vehicles, including the authority to deny recurring offenders from transferring and/or registering vehicles unless their outstanding charges have been paid.

For these reasons the Hawai'i State Association of Counties strongly supports H.B. 1413, H.D.2, and requests your favorable consideration of this measure.

HB-1413-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/3/2022 3:37:57 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/5/2022 10:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Roods and Judiciary Committee members,

and, Chair DelaCruz and Ways and Means Committee members

I am hereby testifying in favor of HB 1413 HD2

Abandoned vehicles are a significant problem on the Island of Hawaii. This is especially true in the subdivision I live in, Orchidland Estates in Puna.

I fully support proactive measures that will help in Counties address this problem.

I believe vehicle owners should be held accountable for the disposal of their vehicles. Maintaining a record of owners who's vehicles were abandoned is a necessary first step toward the accountability actions set forth in HB 1413 HD2.

Non-renewal of one's driver's license sounds like a major deterrent to anyone considering abandonment of their vehicle.

Thank you for addressing this issue.

HB-1413-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/3/2022 5:13:55 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/5/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Becky Jones	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is important legislation designed to create greater control over abandoned and derelict cars left on roadways, private, and public lands. Having laws against harmful acts and behavior are one thing, but actually putting teeth into the legislated consequences for criminal and negligent acts is a more productive step in the right direction.

Support this bill!

HB-1413-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/4/2022 7:57:17 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/5/2022 10:05:00 AM

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 HB 1413. In the Puna Region of the Big Island we have a big problem with abandoned vehicles. This bill would require vehicle owners to pay previously levied fines for abandoned vehicles before being able to register new cars or renew licenses. This approach would generate revenue for the counties as well as provide a financial disincentive for abandoning vehicles.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill. Barbara Cigainero, Keaau, HI 96749

LATE

HB-1413-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/4/2022 10:38:20 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/5/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
P Hauoli'ipo Wright	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

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

MICHAEL P. VICTORINO
Mayor

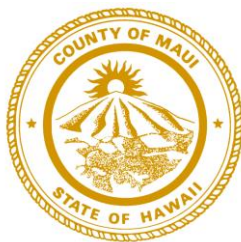
ERIC A. NAKAGAWA, P.E.
Director

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

April 4, 2022

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

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS
AND MEANS

Tuesday, April 5, 2022, 10:05 a.m.
Via Videoconference

In consideration of **HOUSE BILL 1413 HD 2 RELATING TO ABANDONED VEHICLES**

Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Honorable Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair
Honorable Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the Committee on Judiciary
Honorable Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

The County of Maui Department of Environmental Management stands in **STRONG SUPPORT**
of HB 1413 HD 2 which relates to abandoned vehicles and a hold on registration and licenses.

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, just as important—or even more so—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 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in strong support of HB 1413 HD 2.**

LATE

HB-1413-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/4/2022 6:03:43 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/5/2022 10:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

I totally support HB1413 by Rep. Ilegan which will require people to pay their abandoned vehicle fines prior to renewing their driver's licenses or from registering another car. It's a real shame that people somehow believe that they can behave irresponsibly and that there will be no consequences for their action.

I believe that the best solution for the abandoned car problem would be for the state to address the expense of legal, responsible vehicle disposal. Then conscientious people can get rid of junk cars more easily.

Until that time, we have to enforce penalties against illegal vehicle abandonment. This bill provides some tools to do that.

Renee Rabb

Keaau, HI 96749

LATE

HB-1413-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/4/2022 6:08:08 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/5/2022 10:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support HB 1413 from Representative Ilagan. Thank you. Julia Lindbergh, RN

LATE

HB-1413-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/4/2022 7:22:30 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/5/2022 10:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

Without consequences people will continue to litter the islands with abandoned cars. Sadly as in most criminal activity it is the same people committing these offenses. Fines will discourage multiple infractions of vehicle abandonment. Funds are needed to mitigate pollution and to transport these hulks. This law is a common sense solution.