

# 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 Transportation**  
February 2, 2022 at 10:30 am  
423 Via Videoconference

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

Honorable Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Ilagan, and Members of the Committee:

The Finance Department of the County of Kaua'i **supports** HB 1413, 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. Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

**HB-1413**

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 7:32:28 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/2/2022 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura	Maui County Council	Support	No

Comments:

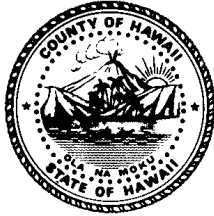
Support Representative Iilagan! Thank you for your hard work for the people, who follow the law and do not abuse our system.

Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura

**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

Mitchell D. Roth  
Mayor



Lee E. Lord  
Managing Director

Robert H. Command  
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i  
Office of the Mayor

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February 1, 2022

**LATE**

Chair, Rep. Henry J.C. Aquino  
Vice-Chair, Gregor Ilagan  
House Committee on Transportation  
Hawai'i State Legislature  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

**Subject: H.B. 1412, H.B. 1413, H.B. 1414 RELATING TO ABANDONED VEHICLES**  
**Hearing Date: Wednesday, February 2, 2022 at 10:30 a.m.**  
**Time/Place of Hearing: Via Video Conference**  
**Conference Room 423**

Aloha Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Ilagan, and members of the House Committee on Transportation;

On behalf of the County of Hawai'i, I am expressing my support for HB 1412, HB 1413, and HB1414 for fiscal year 2022-2023

These bills provide important administrative tools in our effort to address the hundreds of abandoned vehicles and illegal junk yards around Hawai'i County.

Your utmost consideration and support of this legislation is sincerely appreciated. Please feel free to contact me for any additional information.

Mahalo,

Mitchell D. Roth  
Mayor  
County of Hawai'i

**HB-1413**

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 3:17:56 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/2/2022 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Tamara Farnsworth	County of Maui Department of Environmental Management	Support	Yes

Comments:

To the Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and Members:

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

RELATING TO ABANDONED VEHICLES

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 moreso, 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.

For reference, I serve as the County of Maui Division Manager for Environmental Protection & Sustainability, where the Abandoned Vehicles Program is housed. I also served as the administrator for the AV program for five years, so I have a great deal of familiarity with the program and associated challenges.

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.

Mahalo nui.



Committee on Transportation

Rep. Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair

Rep. Greggor Ilagan, Vice Chair

Rep. Linda Clark

Rep. Nadine K. Nakamura

Rep. Troy N. Hashimoto

Rep. Roy M. Takumi

Rep. Lisa Kitagawa

Rep. Lauren Matsumoto

Rep. Matthew S. LoPresti

Testimony of Hawaii County 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 2, 2022

10:30 A.M.

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

ROOM 423

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

The Hawaii Council County 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

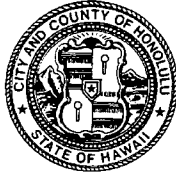
Michael P. Victorino, Mayor, Maui County

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



DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICES  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**  
MISSION MEMORIAL BUILDING  
550 SOUTH KING STREET, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-3391 FAX: (808) 768-1591  
<http://www.honolulu.gov>

RICK BLANGIARDI  
MAYOR



NOLA N. MIYASAKI  
DIRECTOR

KIMBERLY M. HASHIRO  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

February 1, 2022

The Honorable Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair  
The Honorable Greggor Ilagan, Vice Chair  
And Members of the Committee on Transportation  
State Capitol, Room 419  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair Greggor Ilagan, and Members of the  
Committee on Transportation,

SUBJECT: H.B. 1413 - Relating to Abandoned Vehicles

The City and County of Honolulu, Department of Customer Services (CSD), Motor Vehicles, Licensing and Permitting Division, strongly supports H.B. 1413 Relating to Abandoned Vehicles which allows the Director of Finance of a county to require payment of outstanding charges and fines owed to the county related to the disposition of an abandoned vehicle BEFORE issuing a certificate of registration or completing a transfer of ownership.

CSD handles all the requests for abandoned vehicle removal and is responsible for the towing of all inoperable motor vehicles from the roads as well as private property. We are committed to making our roadways safe for all of our communities.

By allowing each county to require all charges and fees for an abandoned vehicle be paid by the registered owner BEFORE issuing a certificate of registration or completing a transfer of ownership, this ensures that all charges and fees are collected by the counties. Any individual that has not paid said charges and fees owed to the county shall have their licenses revoked, suspended or prohibited from renewal. By holding the registered owner of an abandoned or derelict vehicle accountable for its disposition, we will have less abandoned or derelict vehicles left on our roadways.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on H.B. No. 1413.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nola N. Miyasaki".

Nola N. Miyasaki  
Director

**HB-1413**

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 9:56:48 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/2/2022 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Todd Reilly Sr	Nanawale BOD	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

This measure is one necessary step toward ridding the island of toxic waste abandoned vehicles.

Abandoned vehicles are a crime magnet. Please support this measure.

Mahalo

Todd Reilly Sr

Nanawale BOD

**HB-1413**

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 7:12:58 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/2/2022 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Barbara Dalton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Vehicle ownership comes with significant financial responsibility. So, too, does vehicle disposal. As the number of abandoned vehicles statewide continues to grow, financial consequences for the irresponsible act of abandoning one's vehicle must deter vehicle owners from even considering it. HB1413 establishes the means for counties to create financial accountability for those who leave their junk cars on the side of the road and walk away with impunity.

**HB-1413**

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 7:35:30 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/2/2022 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Allen Bartolome	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the passage of this bill

**HB-1413**

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 9:24:20 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/2/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
John Begg	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Abandoned vehicles are a nuisance and road hazard, especially on Government Beach Road in the Puna District. I support measures to manage this problem.

**LATE**

**HB-1413**

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 10:54:38 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/2/2022 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Samantha Richardson Gomes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Today I write in support of HB 1413 regarding "Abandoned Vehicles; Outstanding Charges and Fines; Motor Vehicle Registration; Vehicle Transfer of Ownership; Driver's License".

Abandoned vehicles depreciate land values and are a serious safety hazard. This bill holds offenders accountable for their last act of abandonment and requires them to fulfill their obligations before they can get back on the road again. For this reason I reiterate my support for HB 1413.

Mahalo,

Samantha Gomes

**LATE**

**HB-1413**

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 12:05:46 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/2/2022 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
TK Wehrsig	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is TK Wehrsig. I am the creator/Admin of the largest Crimefighting and information sharing Group for the Island of Hawai'i. Our group currently has over 70K members and is the premier source for information and discussion on our island. This gives me a great insight into the feelings and opinions of the community of the island.

I am also in the running for County Council for District 2. To try and further drive the change that our island wants to see. For the past few 7 years, I have fought to make and keep our island as preserved and beautiful as possible. I am testifying today as I feel this is a step in that direction. Though there are already laws in place. As we all know... No one can write a perfect law and foresee all problems or loopholes. But we can always discuss and fix what needs to be fixed. I feel this is where we are today and this is why I am in support of these bills.

HB1413 – Outstanding Charges and Fines: I support this bill as it brings more weight to the public interest side. Often the ones who abandon these vehicles do it because there is a greater profit to cost value to them. If the fines and outstanding charges do not outweigh the profits. They will continue to carelessly destroy our aina for profit. This deterrent law will not be a fix-all. But it may be the reason to help stop the ones who realize the shift to greater cost for them.

**LATE**

**HB-1413**

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 12:35:35 PM  
Testimony for TRN on 2/2/2022 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Brian F Jordan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Sir or Madam,

While I concur with this Bill I think 286-119 (1) should provide language for a hearing if the licensee has evidence which may change or negate the examiners decision. If I missed this provision in another part of the Bill please accept my apologies.



## ilagan2 - Nicole

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**From:** Rep. Greggor Ilagan  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 1, 2022 1:42 PM  
**To:** ilagan2 - Nicole  
**Subject:** FW: URGENT: Your testimony on abandoned vehicles and auto theft is needed by 4pm today

**LATE**

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**From:** Sky <auntiesky808@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 1, 2022 1:38 PM  
**To:** Rep. Greggor Ilagan <repilagan@capitol.hawaii.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: URGENT: Your testimony on abandoned vehicles and auto theft is needed by 4pm today

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Well, neither tech support nor library are able to verify my new account, so I would like get testimony to committee through Representative's office since this is taking way too much time.

HB1412. Support this bill because specific times and distance of moving abandoned vehicles will help law enforcement remove these vehicles more efficiently.

HB1413 Support this bill because vehicles should not be abandoned as reason for avoiding fines or fees leaving burden on taxpayers.

HB 1486 Support because in these difficult times, especially, vehicle theft may keep someone from job, school, or medical treatment therefore such theft should carry stiff penalties as a discouragement.

Margaret Goodheart  
PO Box 492678  
Kea'au Hawaii

Thank you, Office to assist with testimony.  
Aloha,  
Sky Torigoe Goodheart

On Tue, Feb 1, 2022, 12:45 PM Sky <[auntiesky808@gmail.com](mailto:auntiesky808@gmail.com)> wrote:

Fyi  
Gregor is asking for testimony from us as you can see below.

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Rep. Greggor Ilagan <[aloha@repilagan.com](mailto:aloha@repilagan.com)>  
**Date:** Tue, Feb 1, 2022, 9:34 AM  
**Subject:** URGENT: Your testimony on abandoned vehicles and auto theft is needed by 4pm today  
**To:** Sky Goodheart <[auntiesky808@gmail.com](mailto:auntiesky808@gmail.com)>



February 1, 2022

**Aloha Sky,**

During the middle of last month, I introduced [ten bills](#) for the 2022 legislative session. Yesterday, four of those bills received a hearing. This is where you can help. Once a bill is scheduled to be heard in a committee, testimony for the bill is collected. I want to ask for your testimony for these bills below:

Transportation Committee on Wednesday, January 2, 2022 at 10:30AM: Urgent your testimony is needed by 4pm today

- [HB1412](#): Relating to Abandoned Vehicles:  
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. Requires that, before a vehicle can be classified as being abandoned, notice be provided that the vehicle must be moved the specified distance within the specified timeframe or be subject to removal.
- [HB1413](#): Relating to Abandoned Vehicles:  
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. Requires the county directors of finance 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.
- [HB1414](#): Relating to Abandoned Vehicles:  
Makes a person who is the registered owner of a vehicle that was deemed abandoned or derelict subject to a tiered fine system.

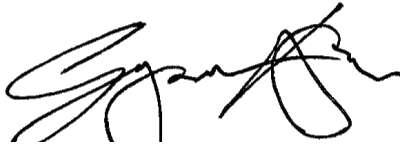
For more information about abandoned vehicles, click on this [link](#) to learn more.

Consumer Protection & Commerce Committee on Wednesday, January 2, 2022 at 2:00PM: Urgent your testimony is needed by 4pm today

- [HB1486](#): Relating to Theft:  
Amends the offense of theft in the first degree to specifically include theft of a motor vehicle as defined in section 291C-1, HRS.

If you were forwarded this email, you can subscribe to our Puna Proud Newsletter by clicking [here](#).

Warm Mahalo,



Representative Greggor Ilagan



Office of State Representative Greggor Ilagan

House of Representatives, 415 South Beretania Street, Room 314, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813, United States

[Unsubscribe](#)

**Patti Cook**

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



**February 1, 2022**

**TO: Hawai'i State House Committee on Transportation  
Rep. Henry Aquino, Chair  
Rep. Greggor Ilagan, Vice Chair  
Committee Members**

**RE: Hearing @ 10:30AM, Wed., Feb. 2, 2022**

**HB 1412, HB 1413 & HB 1414 – SUPPORT**

**Thank you for crafting and now holding this hearing to discuss this package of 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 three bills to ensure passage this session.**

**Mahalo for your time and for listening to community concerns. ]**

***Patti Cook***

**HB-1413**

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 3:08:15 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/2/2022 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Paul Montague	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I supportj HB 1413 as it should help to lesson Hawaii's Abandoned Vehicle problem. However, I believe that a small fee should be added to the vehicle registrition to cover the costs of scrapping. Almost every vehicle that gets shipped to Hawaii will have to be junked at some point. If a fee is charged with the registration, every owner of the vehicle will pay a portion of the costs to dispose of it.

**HB-1413**

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 3:43:24 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/2/2022 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
bob ernst	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB11413

Aloha Chair Aquino

Aloha Vice Chair Ilagan,

Aloha Committee Members Clark, Hashimoto, Kitagawa, LoPresti, Nakamura, Takumi and Matsumoto,

Abandoned vehicles are a menace especially when discarded improperly and/or allowed to accumulate on private property. People must have the Aloha to have the Kuleana to take care of their unwanted vehicle(s) and if they do not they need to be "influenced" to do so.

Please support these bills dealing with abandoned vehicles so that the abandoned vehicle menace does not continue to fester.

Mahalo,

Bob Ernst

**HB-1413**

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 4:22:07 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/2/2022 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Ralph Boyea	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Aquino

Vice Chari Ilagan and members of the House Transportation Committee,

I am hereby testifying in favor of HB 1413

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 the 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.

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

Thank you for addressing this issue.