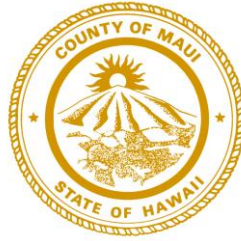


MICHAEL P. VICTORINO
Mayor
ERIC A. NAKAGAWA, P.E.
Director
SHAYNE R. AGAWA, P.E.
Deputy Director
MICHAEL KEHANO, P.E.
Solid Waste Division
SCOTT R. ROLLINS, P.E.
Wastewater Reclamation Division
TAMARA L. FARNSWORTH
Environmental Protection &
Sustainability Division



**COUNTY OF MAUI
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

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

March 14, 2022

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

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
Wednesday, March 15, 2022, 3:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference

In consideration of **HOUSE BILL 1414 HD 1 RELATING TO ABANDONED VEHICLES**

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

The County of Maui Department of Environmental Management stands in **SUPPORT of HB 1414 HD 1** which makes a person who is the registered owner of a vehicle that was deemed abandoned or derelict subject to a tiered fine system.

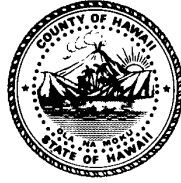
We support this bill because it will serve to hold responsible those who repeatedly abandon vehicles. In our experience, there appears to be a certain demographic of people who chronically dump vehicles. One group or type of perpetrator includes amateur or independent mechanics who acquire vehicles for parts; these vehicles are then abandoned once useful parts are removed. We hope that taking a stronger stance and holding them more accountable will deter them from this activity, and thereby decrease the number of vehicles that require response.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in support of HB 1414 HD 1**.

Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor

Lee Lord
Managing Director

LATE



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

Chair Lee and Committee Members,

The County of Hawai'i Department of Environmental Management **supports HB 1414, HD1**, which provides for increased penalties for repeat offenders of abandoned vehicles. To encourage compliance, the cost of polluting the 'āina by abandoning a vehicle must be much higher than the cost of proper and responsible disposal.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ramzi Mansour".

Ramzi Mansour
Director



THE SENATE
THE THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
Senator Chris Lee, Chair
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair

Notice of Hearing
Testimony of Hawaii Council of Mayors
on
HB 1414, HD1
Relating to Abandoned Vehicles; Repeat Offenders; Penalties
Tuesday, March 15, 2022
3.00 P.M.
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
ROOM 224
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

The Hawaii Council of Mayors supports H. B. 1414. The legislation of Bill 1414 makes a person who is a registered owner of a vehicle that has deemed abandoned or derelict to a tiered fine system. Supporting this bill provides a venue to deter and curtail individuals from abandoning their vehicles by expanding penalties for those who have multiple abandoned vehicles.

Too often the counties are inundated with complaints about derelict vehicles. The counties are burdened with fronting the cost of towing and disposition of said vehicles with no means to recoup the high cost of towing and disposing of the vehicles.

We ask the legislature to support this bill as a venue to help the counties keep our roadways and environment and roadways clean, healthy and safe.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and we ask for your support to address all matters relating to abandoned vehicles.

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)



Testimony of the

Hawai'i State Association of Counties

on

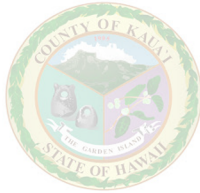
H.B. No. 1414, H.D.1

Relating to Abandoned Vehicles.

Committee on Transportation

Tuesday, March 15, 2022, 3:00 p.m.

State Capitol Room 224



The Hawai'i State Association of Counties (HSAC) strongly **supports** H.B. 1414, H.D.1, which makes the person, who is the registered owner of an abandoned or derelict vehicle subject to fines.



Abandoned and derelict vehicles are a widespread problem on Hawaii's streets, creating safety and health conditions of the State of Hawaii. Contributing to this problem is the ease of abandoning vehicles and the lack of deterrents for the abandonment of vehicles. H.B. 1414, H.D.1, 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.



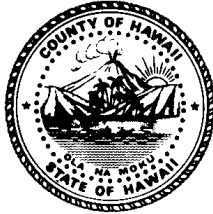
For these reasons the Hawai'i State Association of Counties strongly supports H.B. 1414, H.D.1, and requests your favorable consideration of this measure.

LATE

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@hawaiicounty.gov

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

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

TO: Honorable Senator Chris Lee , Chair
Senate Committee on Transportation

FROM: Heather L. Kimball
Council Member, District 1

DATE: March 14, 2022

SUBJECT: SUPPORT HB 1414, Abandoned Vehicles - Repeat Offenders and Penalties.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to make a person who is the registered owner of a vehicle that was deemed abandoned or derelict subject to a tiered fine system.

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 repeated offenders of abandoned vehicle laws are subject to increasing fines for each offense.

For these reasons, I ask for your **SUPPORT** of HB 1414.

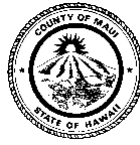
Sincerely,

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

Heather Kimball
Hawai'i County Council Member

Council Chair
Alice L. Lee

LATE



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

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

March 14, 2022

TO: Honorable Chris Lee, Chair
Senate Committee on Transportation

FROM: 
Yuki Lei Sugimura
Councilmember

DATE: March 14, 2022

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT FOR HB 1414, RELATING TO ABANDONED VEHICLES**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to fine registered owners of vehicles deemed abandoned or derelict.

I SUPPORT this measure as a means to address the growing number of abandoned vehicles in Hawaii. Large numbers of abandoned vehicles create severe environmental hazards, are an eyesore in our communities, and put a large financial burden on the counties. HB 1414 helps deter the act by expanding the penalties for those who have multiple abandoned vehicles.

For the foregoing reasons, I SUPPORT this measure.



Maui Metropolitan
Planning Organization



200 South High Street
Wailuku, HI 96793
www.mauiμπο.org

March 15, 2022

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

Before the Senate Committee on Transportation

March 15, 2022 at 3:00pm
Conference Room 224

HB1414 HD1 RELATING TO ABANDONED VEHICLES

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

The Maui MPO Policy Board **supports** HB 1414 HD1. The measure will encourage compliance by making the penalty for habitually abandoning vehicles much higher than the cost of proper and responsible disposal. The measure would discourage repeat offenders by increasing the penalties for abandoning multiple vehicles.

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

HB-1414-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2022 10:18:09 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Tucker	Testifying for Friends of Puna's Future	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. While increasing fines has purpose the term "chronic offenders" would seem to suggest that something more than fines would be in order.

HB-1414-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2022 3:27:42 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rebecca Corby	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this bill. We have a big problem of people dumping (abandoning) vehicle especially in Puna district. This bill would serve as a deterrant for repeat offenders who keep dumping vehicles.

thank you

HB-1414-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 10:13:23 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
SHAWN LOHAY	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I laid eyes on my first abandoned vehicles while I was on vacation in the late 90's. I was driving the road to Hana, and thought to myself - how could a State as beautiful as Hawaii allow this to happen. At the time there must have been 3-5 junked cars along that very twisty, scenic road traveled by thousands of visitors. I was horrified.

Fast forward several years to 2013 when I became a resident of Ocean View and started traveling the road between my new home and Kona. I was overwhelmed by the number of Abandoned cars not only in HOVE, which in places looks like a toxic waste dump, but also by the sheer number of junk cars pushed out to the sides of the main road and left to rust, rot, and leach fluids into the aina. They sat there getting stripped to the frame for months and nothing was done. Then they turned into burned hulks. Pilau.

There is no question in my mind, and there should be NONE in yours, that something MUST be done to deal with this pernicious problem. These bills HB 1411, 1412, 1413 are a start and deserve your full support. Please vote YES and continue to vote YES as these bills are moved through committees. It's past time to mitigate this persistent long-term problem.

HB-1414-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 10:50:59 AM

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

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

Comments:

I completely support the underlying intent of this bill, but have concerns about the language. Tiered penalties are absolutely necessary and appropriate to address these repeat offenders who pollute the aina with abandoned vehicles are car parts, but the bill needs to address not only the maximum fines for repeat offenses, but minimum amounts for those repeat offenses as well. Without mandatory minimums in place, the legislative intent of this bill is subject to being disregarded either at the time fines are levied or by the judge in court. All too often there are laws that are enacted but do not live up to their expectations because of the way they are interpreted. Please close the loopholes.

Patti Pinto
PO Box 711382
Mountain View, HI 96771
pintonian@gmail.com

March 14, 2022

Testimony in support of HB1414

Our rural subdivisions have become the dumping grounds for abandoned vehicles. The burden for vehicle removal falls on individuals, financially limited community associations, the Police Department, and the County Department of Environmental Management. Each part of this resource chain is overwhelmed with the number of vehicles and the seeming increase in violations.

This measure will give us some resources to help with the work of properly disposing of these unwanted vehicles and placing some responsibility back on the vehicle owners, where it belongs.

Please support and move this vital bill forward. If passed, it will give our communities and our County much needed support and perhaps deter some individuals from improperly disposing of their unwanted vehicles.

HB-1414-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 1:07:21 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tristan D Rice	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB-1414. It is a start on combating the practice of back yard chop chops from stripping vehicles and then dropping them off on the roads , when ever and where ever they want !

HB-1414-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 1:55:19 PM

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

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

Comments:

I am IN favor of this bill. Julia Lindbergh, RN

LATE

HB-1414-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 3:53:26 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Montague	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support any bill that serves to reduce the number of abandoned vehicles on the sides of our roads. However, I strongly feel that a fee should be added to the annual vehicle registrations to help cover the costs of the eventual scrapping of the vehicle. That way every owner of the vehicle contributes to its disposal. Under such a system, when it is time to junk the vehicle, the last owner is not paying the whole amount. I would hope for a system that, when it is time to dispose of a vehicle, a phone call is made and a truck comes to tow it away.

Thank you

LATE

HB-1414-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 7:14:36 PM

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

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee and Transportation Committee members,

I am hereby testifying in favor of HB 1414 HD1

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 1414 HD1.

Additional fines and penalties for repeat offenders may be a viable deterrent if accurate records of ownership are maintained.

Thank you for addressing this issue.

LATE

HB-1414-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 11:01:05 PM
Testimony for TRS on 3/15/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cyd L. Hoffeld	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Committee Members,

I **support HB1414 HB1** as a way to minimize abandon vehicles. I also hope the tier fine system can be paid through community service or another none monetary ways for those living in low socioeconomic circumstances.

Mahalo

LATE

HB-1414-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 9:25:33 AM

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

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

Comments:

This is very necessary to deter owners from abandoning their vehicles.

Abandoned vehicles are a big problem. They encourage vandels and what can't be stripped rots away and also provides nesting homes for rates, etc.

I don't know why we need to wait until year 2050 for this to be in effect. We need this now.

LATE

HB-1414-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 9:45:35 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Edward Pieper	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is certainly necessary. The amount of vehicles abandoned has grown very rapidly.

These abandoned vehicles cause several problems. There are also owners that stockpile abandoned vehicles at their homes that cause a problem for the neighborhood. There are homes with over 10 old rotting cars on their property. These attract rats and other pests.