



**DEREK S. K. KAWAKAMI**  
Mayor

**MICHAEL A. DAHILIG**  
Managing Director

# **POLICE DEPARTMENT COUNTY OF KAUAI**

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**TODD G. RAYBUCK**  
Chief of Police

Testimony of Mark N Begley  
Assistant Chief, Patrol Services Bureau  
Kaua'i Police Department

Before the  
Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce  
February 12, 2021; 2:00 pm  
Conference Room 329

In consideration of  
House Bills 161, 160, and 159  
Relating to Registration and Transfer of Vehicles

Honorable Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The Patrol Services Bureau supports House Bills 161, 160 and 159, which would (1) prevent the registration and transferring of vehicles for those who have outstanding towing and related charges owed to the Counties, (2) subject U-drive motor vehicles to the same motor vehicle registration fees as other motor vehicles; and (3) require a motor vehicle transferor or representative to appear in person with the transferee to execute the transfer of a motor vehicle, except in certain situations.

Bills 160 and 159 will significantly curtail the fraud that we have seen in the transfers of motor vehicles. They will drastically reduce the large number of vehicles that are carelessly abandoned around our Counties. They will reduce the significant cost born by our taxpayers in the towing and disposal of these vehicles. They will reduce the contamination caused by abandoned vehicles that are leaking gasoline, oil and other chemicals into our soil and waterways.

Notarization in vehicle transfers is a small price/effort to pay in exchange for eliminating a significant amount of fraud and illegal dumping. The benefits to our local governments, and our taxpayers, far outweigh any other concerns in this regard. It is a simple and painless process to certify additional notaries. Private companies can easily blend notary status into their existing staffing if needed.



We handle abandoned and derelict vehicle complaints on a daily basis, and we see firsthand how important this issue is to our residents and visitors alike. It has been extremely difficult to curtail this behavior and to enforce the collection of outstanding towing and related costs. People have learned that there is little chance that they will be held accountable if they fraudulently transfer a vehicle; fail to complete a transfer of a vehicle; or dump their unwanted vehicles on County and State land.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark N. Begley  
Assistant Chief  
Patrol Services Bureau  
Kauai Police Department



# 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 & Commerce**  
February 12, 2021 at 2:00 pm  
Conference Room 329

In consideration of  
**House Bill 160**  
**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 **strongly supports** HB 160 HD1, which allows the director of finance of a county to charge u-drive vehicles the same beautification fee as any regular citizen would pay. Currently the County of Kaua'i charges \$1 for u-drive vehicles and \$5 for all others. We use this money to defray the costs of abandoned and derelict vehicles left for county disposal.

The abandoned and derelict vehicle problem is impacting the quality of life for our residents, impacts our environment, and is an eye-sore that detracts from our visitor experience. Mayor Kawakami has put together an abandoned vehicle task force which has made progress in identifying process issues. While we are making progress on addressing some of those issues, this increased fee would help to pay for the clean-up initiatives.

It is for these reasons, that we **strongly support** HB 160 HD1. Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

Testimony of the  
**Hawaii State Association of Counties**  
on  
**H.B. 160, H.D.1,**  
**Relating to Registration of Vehicles.**  
Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce  
Friday, February 12, 2021, 2:00 p.m.  
Room 329

The Hawaii State Association of Counties (HSAC) strongly supports H.B. 160, H.D.1, which establishes a single \$2 registration fee for motor vehicles to be used by the counties for highway beautification and to defray the additional cost of disposing abandoned or derelict vehicles.

Currently, this fee is \$1 for U-drive motor vehicles and \$2 for other motor vehicles, which may be raised by the counties by ordinance up to \$10. This fee is inequitable because the use of highways and roads by U-drive vehicles is as intense, if not more intense, than other motor vehicles on our highways and roads. Changing the fee to \$2 for all vehicles would be a more equitable application of the fee.

For these reasons, HSAC supports H.B. 160, H.D.1. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on H.B. No. 160, H.D.1.