

**DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA LAWELAWE KUPA
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

ADMINISTRATION
925 DILLINGHAM BOULEVARD, SUITE 257 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817
PHONE: (808) 768-3392 • FAX: (808) 768-3750 • WEBSITE: honolulu.gov

RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR
MEIA

KIMBERLY HASHIRO
DIRECTOR
PO'O

DEREK MAYESHIRO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
HOPE PO'O



February 15, 2024

The Honorable David A. Tarnas, Chair
The Honorable Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair
And Members of the Committee on Judiciary
And Hawaiian Affairs
State Capitol, Conference Room 325
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee on
Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

SUBJECT: H.B. 1861 H.D. 1 - Relating To Number Plates
HEARING: Thursday, February 16, 2024, 2:00 p.m.

Pursuant to Section 6-402 of the Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu, the Department of Customer Services (CSD) administers the motor vehicle registration program for the island of Oahu, including the issuance of license plates.

Every license plate is required by law to have the word "Hawaii" along the top center of the license plate. Unfortunately, the statute does not spell "Hawaii" with an 'okina. This bill will ensure that the word is correctly spelled "Hawai'i".

This bill will also allow the word "Hawai'i" and the phrase "Aloha State" to be in either upper or lower case to increase design options for future license plates.

Two years ago, the Legislature passed Act 170 which requires Hawaiian diacritical markings in Hawaiian names and words in official State and County letterhead. We support further expansion of the use of Hawaiian diacritical marks in other aspects of government, including our State license plates. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support for this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kimberly Hashiro".

Kimberly M. Hashiro
Director



Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor

Deanna S. Sako
Managing Director

Robert H. Command
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i
Office of the Mayor

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2603 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • (808) 961-8211 • Fax (808) 961-6553
KONA: 74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy., Bldg C • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740
(808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

February 15, 2024

Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair
Rep. Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair

Hawai'i State Legislature
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Subject: H.B. 1861, HD 1 - RELATING TO NUMBER PLATES
Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 16, 2024, at 2:00 p.m.
Time/Place of Hearing: Via Videoconference, Conference Room 224

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

The County of Hawai'i strongly supports this proposed bill. Hawai'i Revised Statutes § 249-9(a)(1) provides that all license plates shall bear the word "Hawaii" along the upper portion of the plate and the words "Aloha State" along the lower portion of the plate. As written, the existing law does not permit the inclusion of the 'okina in the word "Hawaii". This measure seeks to remedy that omission.

Act 170, passed by the legislature in 2022, mandates the use of Hawaiian diacritical markings in Hawaiian names and words on official state and county letterhead. We support broader implementation of Hawaiian diacritical marks across government, including our state vehicle license plates.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of H.B. 1861, HD1.

Sincerely,

Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor
County of Hawai'i

HB-1861-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 8:09:13 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/16/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharron VanDeusen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1861.