



HAWAII WING HEADQUARTERS  
CIVIL AIR PATROL  
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AUXILIARY  
419 Lele St.  
Honolulu, HI 96819



30 January 2022

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 652  
RELATING TO SPECIAL LICENSE PLATES**

**TESTIMONY TO:  
SENATOR CHRIS LEE, CHAIR  
SENATOR LORRAINE R. INOUE, VICE CHAIR  
MEMBERS OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION**

**BY:  
LIEUTENANT COLONEL C W (CHAZ) DRYDEN JR, CAP  
HAWAII WING, CIVIL AIR PATROL**

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Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in **SUPPORT** of SB 652, Relating to Special License Plates.

For over 80 years, the Civil Air Patrol ("CAP"), an auxiliary of the United State Air Force, has provided critical services to the State of Hawaii in times of emergencies. The Hawaii Wing has worked closely with emergency management agencies in all four counties and with the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency and has conducted missions including, but not limited to: Search and rescue, damage assessments, aerial photographs of impacted areas, alerts and notifications, and transportation of supplies.

Most recently, the CAP conducted aerial reconnaissance for the State of Hawaii after the severe weather incident in December of 2021. The photographs were instrumental in documenting the damage to roadways and bridges on the Island of Maui and was included in the State's application for a Federal Disaster Declaration. Similar missions were conducted on the Big Island during the Kilauea volcanic eruptions and on Kauai during the recent flood events. In situations where the State is threatened by a tsunami, the Civil Air Patrol pilots, scanners and ground crews, have been called upon to alert remote areas that are not serviced by the outdoor alert system through speakers that are mounted to CAP aircraft.

Oftentimes in emergencies, certain roads are closed by police, with the exception of emergency vehicles. Vehicles with CAP license plates will be quickly identified by police as those that are involved with emergency response and if safe, allow passage for our crews to conduct their missions mentioned above.



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**BY:  
COLONEL CHANTAL LONERGAN, CAP  
WING COMMANDER  
HAWAII WING, CIVIL AIR PATROL**

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Most recently, the CAP conducted aerial reconnaissance for the State of Hawaii after the severe weather incident in December of 2021. The photographs were instrumental in documenting the damage to roadways and bridges on the Island of Maui and was included in the State’s application for a Federal Disaster Declaration. Recent similar missions were conducted on the Hawaii Island during the Kilauea volcanic eruptions, statewide for Hurrricanes Lane and Olivia, and on Kauai during the recent flood events. In situations where the State is threatened by a tsunami, CAP pilots, scanners and ground crews, are called upon to use aircraft mounted speakers to alert remote areas not otherwise serviced by the state’s emergency alert system.

Oftentimes in emergencies, certain roads are closed by police, with the exception of emergency vehicles. Vehicles with CAP license plates will be quickly identified by police as those that are involved with emergency response and if safe, allow passage for our crews to conduct their missions mentioned above.

**SB-652**

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 9:02:06 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/1/2022 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 652 – RELATING TO SPECIAL LICENSE PLATES**

Aloha Chair, and members of the Senate Committee on Transportation,

My name is 1st Lt Brian Lynch and I am a volunteer member of the Hawaii Wing Civil Air Patrol. We very much appreciate this measure, which would permit the issuance of special Civil Air Patrol license plates as a fundraising source for our organization.

The Civil Air Patrol (CAP) is a congressionally chartered, federally supported non-profit corporation that serves as the official auxiliary of the United States Air Force. CAP is a volunteer organization with an aviation-minded membership that includes people from all backgrounds, lifestyles, and occupations.

The Hawaii Wing of the Civil Air Patrol currently consists of over 300 young cadet members, and over 300 senior (adult) members. CAP supports America's communities with emergency response, diverse aviation and ground services, youth development and promotion of air, space and cyber power. Nationally, Civil Air Patrol finished fiscal 2020 with 130 lives saved, making it one of the most productive years ever for the U.S. Air Force auxiliary's search and rescue efforts. Allowing member's vehicles to carry a CAP special license plate would both honor and financially support the important work we do.

Hawaii is not the first state to request Civil Air Patrol license plates. A quick Google search of images will show that New York, Maryland, Ohio, New Jersey, Missouri, and Mississippi already have these plates available for their members. And that is just from the first search page of images. I believe at this point, more than 20 states offer Civil Air Patrol special license plates. I hope that soon we can add Hawaii to that list.

I humbly request that your committee approve this measure.

Sincerely

Brian J Lynch, 1st Lt, CAP