

LATE \*Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

POLICE DEPARTMENT  
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OUR REFERENCE ST-TK

February 8, 2024

The Honorable Chris Todd, Chair  
and Members  
Committee on Transportation  
House of Representatives  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 312  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Todd and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill No.1576, Relating to Vehicle Number Plates

I am Stason Tanaka, Major of the Traffic Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

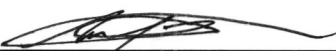
The HPD opposes House Bill No. 1576, Relating to Vehicle Number Plates.


The HPD opposes the proposal to allow owners of vehicles to display the front number plate on the inside of the front windshield as an alternative to being securely fastened to the front of the vehicle. Placing the license plate in this location will impair or obstruct the driver's visibility which will create a safety issue. It will also make it difficult to read in certain conditions, especially at night when the reflectivity of the plate comes into play. In addition, for crimes involving vehicles, witnesses may not be able to read the plate from their vantage point, due to glare or possible tinting on the front windshield.

The HPD urges you to oppose House Bill No. 1576, Relating to Vehicle Number Plates, and we appreciate the committee's consideration of our concerns. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

APPROVED:

Sincerely,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Arthur J. Logan  
Chief of Police

  
Stason Tanaka, Major  
Traffic Division

**HB-1576**

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 3:02:22 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/8/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
ALLENREY CASTILLO	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my wholehearted support for 1576 HB, which addresses the issue of front license plates on vehicles. As a responsible and law-abiding vehicle owner, I believe that providing an option not to have front license plates is a reasonable and practical step forward.

Front license plates, while serving an important purpose in identification and law enforcement, can also have aesthetic and practical implications for vehicle owners. The proposed bill recognizes the need for a balanced approach, allowing for flexibility while still upholding the essential functions of license plate identification.

Granting vehicle owners the option not to have front license plates can have several positive outcomes. It not only allows for a cleaner and more aesthetically pleasing appearance for vehicles but also reduces the risk of damage caused by aftermarket installations. Furthermore, it aligns with the practices in many other states where front license plates are not required.

I appreciate the consideration given to the concerns of vehicle owners in this legislation. By allowing for the choice regarding front license plates, 1576 HB strikes a sensible balance between the need for identification and the desire for vehicle customization.

In conclusion, I urge the committee to support and advance 1576 HB. This bill reflects a thoughtful and practical approach to the issue of front license plates, acknowledging the concerns of vehicle owners while maintaining the necessary standards for identification. Thank you for your time and consideration of my testimony.

**HB-1576**

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:53:20 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/8/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Paul Maldonado	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Fully SUPPORT HB 1576. We're are not getting rid of the front plate. We are simply asking that we have the choice to display the plate elsewhere, But still in front the vehicle.

**HB-1576**

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:45:41 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/8/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Keith Kaaialii	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this proposed bill. This will help lower the amount of front license plate theft. Too much times I hear of people complaining that their front plates get stolen, and then they get pulled over for expired tags and get a no front plate ticket added to the list of charges! Absolutely ridiculous.

**HB-1576**

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 2:36:49 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/8/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Val Valdez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Front plates can hinder cooling performance on a range of vehicle types potentially costing more money out of your typical residents pocket. Some vehicles don't even come with front mounts for plates.

**HB-1576**

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 6:39:41 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/8/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ryan Christopher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I would like to voice my support of this bill. Many cars including classice cars and high end cars do not have holes in the bumper for a front plate. The states current requirement forces people to drill holes in their expensive and or valuable cars.

Ryan C

Honokaa HI

**HB-1576**

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 7:08:50 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/8/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kalani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I honestly don't know why we still have front plates. If it's on the dash you can see it still. So what's the issue?

**HB-1576**

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 4:52:52 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/8/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Joshua Domingo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1576 as an alternative method of mounting the front license plate. Of most, if not all, European import cars, there is no US-adapted way of mounting the license plate without drilling or mounting the plates, which results in small damage to the car. European cars have a license plate space for European cars only; thus, the space doesn't support the US mounting holes and must be drilled to accommodate. Providing an alternative to this, without damaging the car's front bumper, would help maintain the car's value. Car prices have dramatically increased over the years, and maintaining as much value as possible will give the benefit directly to our citizens now and in the future.



**HB-1576**

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 9:38:34 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/8/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Daniel Bustamante	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Some vehicles don't come with front mount brackets for the front bumper and other people wrap their vehicles in vinyl wraps, which may completely block off the mounting spot for a bracket. Brackets cost money and those without brackets will always be targetted. Those without brackets won't have to waste their time and money waiting for a bracket to arrive just so they can drive. Also, if a front-end collision were to occur, a broken front plate would not have to be reordered from the DMV if the plate was in the windshield.

**HB-1576**

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 11:27:49 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/8/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tache Uesugi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this house bill.

**HB-1576**

Submitted on: 2/8/2024 2:32:09 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/8/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tristan Pellejera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Allowing owners to display their front license plate in the front windshield as an alternative to affixing the license plate to the front bumper would be beneficial for many individuals. License plate mounts that come from the vehicle manufacturer can be flimsy and some vehicles require these mounts to be drilled into the front bumper of the vehicle which can cause damage to the finish of the vehicle and creates permanent holes that cannot be repaired. In addition to this, the front aesthetic of the vehicle is much nicer without a front license plate, and displaying it in the front windshield would keep the integrity of the aesthetic while still allowing the front license plate to be seen. Lastly, having the front license plate inside the vehicle displayed in the front windshield would protect the license plate from hazards and debris like trash or dirt on the road that is more likely to hit the front bumper and cause damage or obstruction of the license plate.