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



RICK BLANGIARDI MAYOR *MEIA* ADMINISTRATION
925 DILLINGHAM BOULEVARD, SUITE 257 • HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96817
PHONE: (808) 768-3392 • FAX: (808) 768-3750 • WEBSITE: honolulu.gov



February 1, 2024

KIMBERLY HASHIRO
DIRECTOR
PO'O

DEREK MAYESHIRO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

HOPE PO'O

The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair
The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair
And Members of the Committee on Transportation
And Culture and the Arts
State Capitol, Conference Room 224
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts,

SUBJECT: S.B. 2355 - Relating to Vehicle Titles HEARING: Thursday, February 1, 2024, 3:00 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.

This bill allows the seller of a motor vehicle to request the CSD Director to legally complete the transfer of the motor vehicle's title to the buyer if the buyer fails to endorse and submit the vehicle's title to the CSD's Motor Vehicle Registration branch.

The CSD <u>opposes</u> this bill. While the intent of this bill is sound, its application can be easily abused. Individuals seeking to avoid proper vehicle registration or payment of registration fees could easily claim that the vehicle was transferred to an alleged buyer without the alleged buyer's knowledge. Then, this other person is responsible for payment of motor vehicle registration fees.

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Currently, the buyer's endorsement is required and serves to acknowledge the transfer and that information on the title transfer is correct including the buyer's address.

For the reasons above, the CSD opposes this measure.

Sincerely,

Kimberly M. Hashiro

Director