

DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICES
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March 20, 2023

The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair
The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair
And Members of the Committee on Transportation and
Culture and the Arts
Hawaii 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: H.B. 105, H.D. 2, Proposed S.D. 1 - Relating To License Plates
HEARING: Tuesday, March 21, 2023, 3:00 p.m.

The City and County of Honolulu, Department of Customer Services¹ (CSD)
opposes the proposed S.D. 1 of this bill.

While the CSD appreciates the intent of the proposed S.D. 1, the CSD believes
that the broad amendments to the bill overcomplicates the original intent and effect of
the bill.

In its original form, H.B. 105 sought minor amendments to Hawaii Revised
Statutes § 249-9(a)(1). HRS §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. H.B. 105 only sought to include an 'okina in the word
"Hawaii" and allow for the use of upper or lower case letters for artistic design purposes.

While the proposed S.D. 1 also allows for the 'okina and the option to use upper
or lower case letters, the proposed S.D. 1 also extends and complicates the bill to

¹ Pursuant to Section 6-402 of the Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu, CSD administers
the motor vehicle registration program for the island of Oahu, including license plates.

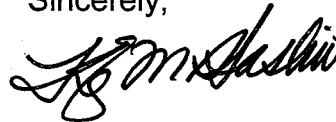
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create a new standard zero emission license plate design and restricts the current standard rainbow design license plate to gas powered and hybrid vehicles.

In light of the above, the CSD opposes the proposed S.D. 1 and requests that the Committee pass H.B. 105, H.D. 2 with an "upon approval" effective date.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on this bill and its proposed S.D. 1.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kimberly M. Hashiro". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Kimberly M. Hashiro
Director



HB105 HD2
RELATING TO LICENSE PLATES
Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts

March 20, 2023

3:00 PM

Room 224

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HB105 HD2, which would require license plates to include ‘okina in furtherance of the recognition for ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i as one of two official languages of the State of Hawai‘i.

OHA would like to emphasize that the development and use of ‘okina and kahakō were to provide the necessary distinction in the appropriate pronunciation of words as the language evolved and transformed from predominantly spoken to include written. In written ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i, the use of diacritical marks, like ‘okina, maintain the same critical importance as the recognized letters of the Hawaiian language alphabet, in that their absence or presence in word can result in a completely different meaning.

The use of ‘okina in license plates may seem insignificant, however, the proper respect afforded to maintaining the integrity of ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i in its written and spoken forms is monumental.

OHA appreciates the opportunity to SUPPORT this measure and urges the Committee to PASS HB105 HD2. Mahalo nui loa.