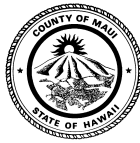


Council Chair  
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair  
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore  
Tasha Kama

Councilmembers  
Tom Cook  
Gabe Johnson  
Tamara Paltin  
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Shane M. Sinenci  
Nohelani U'u-Hodgins



Director of Council Services  
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

Deputy Director of Council Services  
Richelle K. Kawasaki, Esq.

**COUNTY COUNCIL**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 S. HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
[www.MauiCounty.us](http://www.MauiCounty.us)

January 24, 2025

TO: Honorable Darius K. Kila, Chair, and  
Members of the House Committee on Transportation

FROM: Nohelani U'u-Hodgins  
Councilmember

SUBJECT: **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 532, RELATING TO VEHICLE  
TITLES**

DATE: Tuesday, January 28, 2025  
10:00 a.m., Conference Room 430

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to reduce the period in which a transferee is required to forward the certificate of ownership to the Director of Finance when a title of vehicle is transferred from thirty days to fourteen days and allows a letter of attestation to the Director of Finance to act as an endorsed certificate for motor vehicle transfer.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

Passing HB 532 will reduce the amount of time for ownership verification and help ensure that vehicle ownership records are updated quickly. This will minimize delays in identifying the legal owner of a vehicle, which is critical for administrative and enforcement purposes.

January 24, 2025  
Page 2

Expediting title transfers can also reduce the number of abandoned vehicles and illegal dumping on our roadways and private property, which requires significant time and resources from state and county departments.

I urge you to lend your support to HB 532.

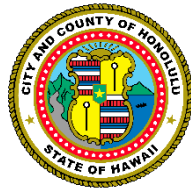
Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 532.

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

ADMINISTRATION

925 DILLINGHAM BOULEVARD, SUITE 257 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817  
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RICK BLANGIARDI  
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MEIA



KIMBERLY HASHIRO  
DIRECTOR  
PO'O

MEGAN JOHNSON  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
HOPE PO'O

January 27, 2025

The Honorable Darius K. Kila, Chair  
The Honorable Tina Nakada Grandinetti, Vice Chair  
and Members of the House Committee on Transportation  
State Capitol, Conference Room 430  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Kila, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and Members of the House Committee on Transportation,

SUBJECT: H.B. No. 532 - Relating To Vehicle Titles  
HEARING: Tuesday, January 28, 2025, 10:00 a.m.

The City and County of Honolulu, Department of Customer Services (CSD) **opposes** this bill and appreciates the opportunity to offer comments for your committee's consideration. Pursuant to Section 6-402 of the Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu, CSD Division of Motor Vehicle Registration (DMV) administers the motor vehicle registration program for the island of O'ahu. While CSD appreciates the intent of the proposed legislation, we have concerns regarding its application and its legal implications.

H.B. No. 532 allows a transferor (e.g., seller, donor) of a motor vehicle to request the CSD Director to legally complete the transfer of a vehicle's title to a transferee (e.g., buyer, recipient), if the transferee fails to endorse and submit the vehicle's title to CSD DMV within a specified period of time. Allowing for the transfer of the title or interest of a legal owner in and to a vehicle to be completed unilaterally by the transferor without also requiring the transferee's attestation that the information provided on the Notice of Transfer form is correct and to confirm the transferee's mutual and knowing assent of the transfer can be easily abused. False or incomplete information could be unilaterally provided by a transferor for a fraudulent or illegitimate purpose. For example, an individual seeking to avoid proper vehicle registration or payment of registration fees may claim that a vehicle was transferred to an alleged buyer or recipient without the alleged buyer's or recipient's knowledge. Then, this other person will be responsible for

the payment of motor vehicle registration fees, liability for parking and/or traffic violations, and civil or criminal litigation resulting from operation of the vehicle.

Currently, the transferee's endorsement is legally required and serves to acknowledge the transfer and that information on the title transfer is correct, including the transferee's address. Section 286-52, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, requires that when title or interest of a vehicle is being transferred, that both the transferor and transferee attest that the information provided on the certificate of ownership is accurate and that both the transferor and the transferee are entering into the transaction mutually and knowingly.

CSD has been working with the Office of Senator Karl Rhoads on options to address issues of transferors having persistent liability on vehicles for which title and possession have been transferred. Section 286-52(k), Hawai'i Revised Statutes, already includes language establishing that when a transferor complies with the portions of the statute applying to transferors, the transferor is released from liability arising out of the operation of the transferred vehicle. CSD supports the intent of Senate Bill No. 1522 (2025) to retain the substance of Section 286-52, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, including maintaining the requirement that the transferor and transferee mutually attest to the information provided on the certificate of ownership, while also clarifying that a transferor shall not be liable for any violation resulting from the operation of a transferred vehicle if the transferor complies with the portions of the statute requiring action on the transferor's part. CSD respectfully suggests that Senate Bill No. 1522 (2025) may address issues of transferors having persistent liability on vehicles for which title and possession have been transferred in a more appropriate manner.

For the reasons above, CSD opposes this measure.

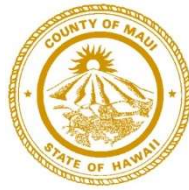
Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on H.B. No. 532.

Sincerely,

Kimberly M. Hashiro  
Director Designate

**RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.**  
Mayor

**JOSIAH K. NISHITA**  
Managing Director



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
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[www.mauicounty.gov](http://www.mauicounty.gov)

TO: Representative Darius K. Kila, Chair  
Representative Tina Nakada Grandinetti, Vice Chair  
Committee on Transportation

FROM: Richard T. Bissen, Jr., Mayor  
Shayne Agawa, Director of Department of Environmental Management

DATE: January 27, 2025

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT OF HB532, RELATING TO VEHICLE TITLES**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of this important measure which aims to reduce the period in which a transferee is required to forward the certificate of ownership to the director of finance when a title of vehicle is transferred from thirty days to fourteen days. Allows a letter of attestation to the Director of Finance to act as an endorsed certificate for motor vehicle transfer. We **SUPPORT** this measure for the following reasons:

1. Enhancing the penalty for falsely or fraudulently providing vehicle transfer information that obfuscates or misrepresents vehicle ownership will likely prevent fake or false ownership of vehicles.
2. Tightening up ownership paperwork may make the public think twice about abandoning the vehicles that they own.
3. Reducing the time between vehicle transfers may enhance general vehicle registration and transfer compliance.

Mahalo for your consideration.

**HB-532**

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 12:45:43 AM

Testimony for TRN on 1/28/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sylvie Madison	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. People are busy and do not need new laws that create more cumbersome paperwork. Leave it as it is!

**HB-532**

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 8:32:29 AM

Testimony for TRN on 1/28/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Councilmember Tamara Paltin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair and members,

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure. We have a significant problem with abandoned vehicles in Maui County, especially in West Maui near the mile marker 13.5 area where hundreds of abandoned vehicles are removed annually. An issue that has been identified as a contributing factor is that when cars are sold and there is 30 days to register the car with the new owner, and the new owner never registers the car, it becomes an obstacle in holding the abandoned vehicle owner accountable. Cutting down the amount of time a new owner has to register the car in the name is a step in the right direction and we can see if more action is needed or this helps in the identifying of abandoned vehicle owners to the point where it alleviates the problems we are encountering. Please support this measure to assist us in addressing the issues surrounding abandoned vehicles.

Mahalo,

Councilmember Tamara Paltin

**HB-532**

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 10:31:50 AM

Testimony for TRN on 1/28/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Haloa Dudoit	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kila,

Support for HB532- Improving the Vehicle Title Transfer Process

I am writing to express my support for HB532, which reduces the time to submit a certificate of ownership from thirty days to fourteen days and allows a letter of attestation to serve as an alternative for motor vehicle transfers.

This bill modernizes the vehicle transfer process by ensuring quicker updates to records, benefiting buyers, sellers, and government agencies. A shorter submission period reduces errors and potential misuse of vehicles during the interim.

Allowing attestation letters as an alternative makes the process more flexible and accessible, especially for people in rural areas or those facing delays due to postal or logistical issues. This change keeps the process efficient while maintaining transparency.

These updates will streamline administrative procedures and improve the integrity of vehicle transfers, supporting better public service and government efficiency.

I respectfully urge the committee to support this measure. Thank you for considering this important improvement.

Haloa Dudoit