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Representative Nicole Lowen, Chair
Representative Lisa Marten, Vice Chair
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Thursday, February 4, 2021, 9:00 a.m.

Via Videoconference

RE: HB 559 – Relating to Transportation – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten and members of the committee:

My name is Robert Muhs, Vice President Government Affairs, Corporate Compliance and Business Ethics for Avis Budget Group. Avis Budget appreciates this opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to HB 559, which would require lessors of rental motor vehicles to include an option for the lessee in the motor vehicle rental agreement to contribute a sum to DLNR for the preservation and protection of the environment

It would be an administrative burden to implement, maintain records and submit contributions to accommodate consumers who may check this option. Additionally, with Hawaii having one of the highest rental car surcharge amounts in the country, there may not be enough consumer interest to make such a contribution. Perhaps there should be a study first to determine interest.

For this reason, we ask that the committee defer this measure. Thank you.

HB-559

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 9:43:31 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/4/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ted Bohlen	Climate Protectors Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

To: The House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection (EEP)

From: Climate Protectors Coalition

Hearing Date: Thursday, February 2, 2021, 9:00 am

In support of HB559 RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, and Energy and Environmental Protection Committee members:

The Climate Protectors Coalition **supports HB559.**

The Climate Protectors Coalition is a group inspired by the Mauna Kea Protectors but focused on reversing the climate crisis. As a tropical island State, Hawaii will be among the first places harmed by the global climate crisis, with more intense storms, loss of protective coral reefs, food insecurity, and rising sea levels destroying our shorelines. We must do all we can to reduce our carbon footprint and become at least carbon neutral as soon as possible.

This bill would provide some funding to DLNR by requiring vehicle rental companies to offer renters an option to contribute to DLNR for the preservation and protection of the environment.

The Climate Protectors ask that you pass this bill. Mahalo!

Climate Protectors Coalition (by Ted Bohlen)

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
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**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**Thursday, February 4, 2021
9:00 AM**

State Capital, Via Video Conference, Conference Room 325

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 559
RELATING TO RENTAL MOTOR VEHICLES**

House Bill 559 proposes to require lessors of rental motor vehicles to include an option in the motor vehicle rental agreement for the lessee to contribute a sum to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) for the preservation and protection of the environment. **The Department supports this measure provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Biennium Budget request.**

The Department recognizes the important role Hawaii's natural and cultural resources play in our economic sectors, and that management of these resources is substantially underfunded, especially when considering the challenges we face with climate change. Given that these resources are vital to sustaining our tourism industry, the Department supports this measure as it will provide the opportunity for dedicated funding to support the management of these resources.

The Department notes that people are more willing to pay a fee for environmental protection and/or management if they know their contributions will be put directly into environmental protection initiatives.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



SanHi

GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES

A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP

DATE: February 3, 2021

TO: Representative Nicole Lowen
Chair, Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

FROM: Mihoko Ito

RE: **H.B. 559, Relating to Transportation**
Hearing Date: Thursday, February 4, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room: 325

Dear Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, and members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection:

We submit this testimony on behalf of Enterprise Holdings, which includes Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Alamo Rent-A-Car, National Car Rental, and Enterprise Commute (Van Pool).

Enterprise **opposes** H.B. 559, which requires lessors of rental motor vehicles to include an option to the lessee in the motor vehicle agreement to contribute a sum to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for the preservation and protection of the environment beginning January 1, 2022.

Enterprise already offers a voluntary contribution for research to offset carbon emissions on each contract. The details are available on a website we identify for our renters. We do not feel that it is appropriate for the state to require rental car companies to include the voluntary contribution provided for in H.B. 559. Rather, this should be left to each individual company. As it is, the state already collects from rental car customers substantial sums of money to be used for state purposes. We do not feel that it is justified to solicit additional contributions from renters, and feel that it will alienate our customers.

For these reasons, we oppose H.B. 559 and respectfully request that the Committee hold this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.