



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
919 ALA MOANA BOULEVARD, ROOM 113
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814
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February 22, 2010

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
House Committee on Finance
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

**SUBJECT: HB 1859 HD1 – RELATING TO FUNDING FOR PARKING FOR
DISABLED PERSONS**

The position and views expressed in this testimony do not represent nor reflect the position and views of the Department of Health.

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities **SUPPORTS THE INTENT OF HB 1859 HD1**. The purpose of this bill is to increase the State motor vehicle registration fee to be paid into the Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) special fund to enforce the Parking for Disabled program. The bill also deletes funding for State credentialing for interpreters under the special fund.

The Council appreciates the Legislature's initiative to designate \$1.00 from the annual motor vehicle registration fee into DCAB's special fund to administer and support the Parking for Disabled program. This seems to be a reasonable alternative to generate revenue to sustain the program. We defer to DCAB for the fiscal impact on the amount of funds the \$1.00 fee would generate.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 1859 HD1.

Sincerely,

Waynette K.Y. Cabral
Executive Administrator

Rosie Rowe
Chair

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 21, 2010 9:33 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: kahuna00@hawaiiintel.net
Subject: Testimony for HB1859 on 2/22/2010 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/22/2010 10:00:00 AM HB1859

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Chuck Fleming
Organization: Individual
Address: 75-310 W. Kakalina Pl. Kailua-Kona, HI 96740
Phone: (808) 326-4708
E-mail: kahuna00@hawaiiintel.net
Submitted on: 2/21/2010

Comments:

Chair Oshiro, Vice-Chair Lee and members of the Committee:

My name is chuck Fleming and I am testifying as a wheelchair and modified vehicle user in support of H.B. 1859 HD 1.

The purpose of this bill is to help cover the costs of administering parking for persons with disabilities by increasing the annual vehicle registration fee by \$1, which will be deposited into the Disability and Communication Access Board Special Fund. This will insure the continuing availability of the parking placard, which is at present the responsibility of each county to issue.

With the economy the way it is and revenues down, I don't think the counties can be relied upon to provide the placards in a fast and efficient way. In fact, since the funds for placards have been eliminated from the state general fund budget, I question whether they can be relied upon to provide them at all.

Several years ago there was discussion in Maui county regarding whether to continue the handicapped parking program because state funding was considered insufficient.

If counties were currently to discontinue or reduce the number of placards issued, disabled folks could be denied placards and, as the state bears the responsibility under Federal Law, Hawaii could be left "holding the bag".

A small vehicle registration fee would place the cost upon the users and ensure the continuation of a quality parking program without draining general funds.

H.B. 1859 H.D. 1 incorporates the changes requested by the City and County of Honolulu to provide time to change the software in its computers by changing its effective date to November 1, 2010.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 21, 2010 11:25 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: Tlenzer@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1859 on 2/22/2010 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/22/2010 10:00:00 AM HB1859

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Anthony Lenzer
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone: 261-2095
E-mail: Tlenzer@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/21/2010

Comments:

My name is Anthony Lenzer. I have neurological problems which make walking difficult. As a result, several years ago, I applied for and received a disability parking placard. This placard has been a Godsend to me. Although technically "retired," I am an active member of several advocacy organizations. Participation involves numerous meetings at the Capitol and other downtown locations. I live in Kailua, and drive to town for such meetings, often several times a week. Without having the placard, it would be impossible to find parking at or near the meeting sites, to say nothing of the cost of parking.

I am therefore more than willing to add a dollar to my vehicle registration fee to help DCAB cover part of the cost of administering the disabled parking program. I realize that this modest amount will cover only a fraction of the program's cost. However, if it frees up only a small amount of state funds for other purposes, that too is useful.

I therefore urge you to support HB 1859. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony via computer...and not have to take up a valuable parking space at the Capitol!

**ART FRANK
86-363 KAWILI ST
WAIANAE, HI 96792-2941
FEBRUARY 21, 2010**

HB 1859, HD1 RELATING TO FUNDING FOR DISABLED PERSONS

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, REP, MARCUS R. OSHIRO, CHAIR

Monday, February 22, 2010 10:00A.M. Conference Room 308

Good morning Mr. Chairman and members of the House Committee on Finance. My name is Art Frank and I have been a user of disabled parking for over 31 years. In all this time I've testified on dozens of bills relating to disabled parking at this legislature. Most bills I've agreed with although I have disagreed on some. I do recall on a couple of occasions knocking heads with my friend Francine Wai because I strongly disagreed with two of her bills.

In this case after questioning and discussing HB 1859, HD1 with the DCAB staff I strongly support this bill because I'm afraid without proper funding we the user will be in trouble. Let me explain my concerns to you. In 1978 when I first started driving with hand controls and needed a placard it was controlled by the Dept of Transportation, I believe. I swear back then the placards did not have a expiration date because I had mine forever until the legislature initiated a new plan whereby DCAB's predecessor agency took control of the program. We the disabled asked that something be done because there were no controls over the placards because when somebody died nobody knew what happened to the placards. Any old Tom, Dick or Harry could take over using the placards. Thousands of users could have died over the years and the placards without expiration dates were still out there. Until DCAB took over the program and issued documented rules and regulations through the legislature (I think), the whole program was a mess. Back in the old days if a disabled person like me had questions regarding the disabled parking program or placards there was mass confusion over at the DOT because nobody could adequately answer our questions or we got different answers from different people. Today under DCAB they really know what they are doing so there's no confusion for us. As an example about two months ago I read in kokua line about a problem people were having with disabled parking. People were frustrated and in one case angry. I emailed Debbie Jackson at DCAB suggesting that maybe we need ask for a change to the law this upcoming session and that somebody should get to Kokua line and let them know what's up. I received an email back telling me Francine said no change is needed because it's already covered and that Charlotte, her assistant was already working on answers to send to kokua line. That took care of the confusion and frustrations of the three people who wrote to kokua line regarding problems with disabled parking. My point being Francine and DCAB staff really

know what they are doing, and they are doing a damn good job for us, not just with disabled parking either, but many other areas that they help us out with. I want to assure all of you that the additional \$1 that they are asking for will be well spent and necessary to keep the disabled parking program running smoothly----I promise you that because I know it. I've been actively involved with Francine since she worked in a broom closet on King and Richards Street back in 1978-79. She knows what's she's doing so please help her with this funding so she can continue to help us. Mahalo nui loa for your support.



ART FRANK,
Disabled Parking User
for 31 years