

DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICES  
**CITY & COUNTY OF HONOLULU**  
DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLE, LICENSING AND PERMITS  
ADMINISTRATION  
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PETER B. CARLISLE  
MAYOR



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DENNIS A. KAMIMURA  
LICENSING ADMINISTRATOR

February 1, 2012

The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
and Committee Members  
Committee on Health  
House of Representatives  
State of Hawaii  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Yamane and Committee Members:

Subject: H.B. No. 2373, Relating to Health

The City and County of Honolulu would like provide to comments regarding H.B. No. 538 which imposes a \$1 fee to be added for any new or renewed driver's license.

There are varying driver license expiration periods ranging from less than 1 year to 8 years. An applicant may be issued a license for a period shorter than what is provided in Section 286-106, HRS, if a medical condition requires more frequent renewals or a non-resident whose length of legal stay in the United States may be initially limited to one year or less. A person issued a provisional license will expire on that person's 19<sup>th</sup> birthday. A person who is 72 years of age and older will be issued a license that is valid for 2 years. A person who is under the age of 25 will be issued a 4-year license. A person that is 25 years of age to 71 years of age will be issued a 8-year license. Individuals issued a license that expire in less than 8 years will be paying more over an 8-year period.

In order to facilitate required computer programming changes, we recommend that the effective date of the bill be amended to December 1, 2012.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis A. Kamimura".

Dennis A. Kamimura  
Licensing Administrator

# TAXBILLSERVICE

126 Queen Street, Suite 304

TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

SUBJECT: MISCELLANEOUS, Organ and tissue support and education fee

BILL NUMBER: HB 2373

INTRODUCED BY: Yamane and Chong

**BRIEF SUMMARY:** Amends HRS section 286-107 to provide that a fee of \$1 shall be collected when a person obtains or renews a driver's license and provides that the fee shall be deposited into the organ and tissue support and education special fund under HRS 327-24.

Amends HRS section 286-109.7 to rename the organ and tissue education fee as the organ and tissue support and education fee. The donation fee of \$1 shall be a mandatory \$1 fee effective on July 1, 2012.

Amends HRS section 327-24 to rename the organ and tissue education special fund as the organ and tissue support and education special fund and provide that the fund may be used to support the establishment of an organ transplant center in Hawaii.

The director of finance is to transfer \$500,000 from the emergency medical services special fund to the Hawaii organ and tissue support and education special fund on July 1, 2012.

This Act shall be repealed on December 31, 2015, and HRS sections 286-107, 286-109.7, and 327-24, shall be reenacted in the form in which they read on June 30, 2012.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 1, 2012

**STAFF COMMENTS:** The legislature by Act 88, SLH 1999, allowed a \$1 to be collected as a donation to the Hawaii organ and tissue special fund if the registrant of a motor vehicle made a designation when a motor vehicle was registered. The act also established the Hawaii organ and tissue education special fund to be used exclusively for public education programs and activities on organ, tissue, and eye donations.

This measure would make this \$1 fee mandatory when a motor vehicle is registered and also impose a fee of \$1 on every person obtaining or renewing a driver's license with the fees deposited into the Hawaii organ and tissue support and education special fund which, in turn, may be used to support the establishment of an organ transplant center in Hawaii.

While this measure proposes to extract additional revenues for the Hawaii organ and tissue support and education special fund, it is questionable whether the amount derived from these additional sources will be sufficient for the purposes of the special fund. If insufficient revenues are generated from these sources, there is no doubt that the amount of the fee will be increased or other sources of revenue may be tapped. Further, one has to ask what is the relationship between motor vehicular registrations, drivers' license renewals and applications and the organ and tissue support programs.

HB 2373 - Continued

If the legislature considers the establishment of an organ transplant center in Hawaii to be a high priority, then it should be subject to the appropriation process to ensure that adequate funds are appropriated and reviewed by the legislature rather than the method proposed by this measure.

This proposal, like many others introduced during this session, reflects the pure arrogance of lawmakers that they can just slap another fee or tax on taxpayers to fund a favorite program for which they are not willing to appropriate general funds. While lawmakers may consider a dollar inconsequential, would they ignore a dollar bill dropped on a sidewalk? That dollar to some taxpayers is the difference between being able to put food on the table or not at the end of the month when the food stamps and the welfare check runs out. While the sponsors of this measure may believe that organ and tissue donations are critical, they obviously don't think the issue is of high enough priority to appropriate general funds. Note well that this fee is to fund the "education" of public about the importance of organ and tissue transplants and donations. Taxpayers should read "another position" in state government as the reason for this measure.

Digested 2/2/12