

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

REIKO MATSUYAMA, DIRECTOR

MICHELLE L. LIZAMA, DEPUTY DIRECTOR



DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR
MICHAEL A. DAHLIG, MANAGING DIRECTOR

Testimony of Reiko Matsuyama

Director of Finance, County of Kauaʻi

Before the

Committee on Transportation

March 15, 2022 at 3:00 pm

Conference Room 224

In consideration of

House Bill 1411 HD2

Relating to the Registration of Vehicles

Honorable Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee:

The Finance Department of the County of Kauaʻi **supports** HB 1411 HD2, which requires both the transferor and transferee of a vehicle to sign and attest to correct information to execute a vehicle transfer. Currently our county receives a number of fraudulent or erroneous notice of transfer forms. This prevents us from keeping current and accurate records of registered owners which is one of the primary issues contributing to the abandoned vehicle problems on our island.

We believe this legislation will reduce the amount of fraud committed in the vehicle transfer process. We receive many Notice of Transfer slips through our drop box and mail which many times are not legible. There is no way to verify someone's identity. Our Kauaʻi Police Department has done research on how the problem is handled throughout the nation and this is a step in the right direction to assure that we are processing title transfers with accurate information on registered owners.

It is for these reasons we **support** HB 1411 HD2. Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

MICHAEL P. VICTORINO
Mayor

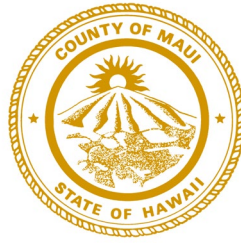
ERIC A. NAKAGAWA, P.E.
Director

SHAYNE R. AGAWA, P.E.
Deputy Director

MICHAEL KEHANO, P.E.
Solid Waste Division

SCOTT R. ROLLINS, P.E.
Wastewater Reclamation Division

TAMARA L. FARNSWORTH
Environmental Protection &
Sustainability Division



**COUNTY OF MAUI
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

2145 KAOHU STREET, SUITE 102
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793

March 14, 2022

TESTIMONY OF TAMARA L. FARNSWORTH
COUNTY OF MAUI, MANAGER OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION & SUSTAINABILITY
DIVISION

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
Wednesday, March 15, 2022, 3:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference

In consideration of **HOUSE BILL 1411 HD 2 RELATING TO REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES**

Honorable Senator Chris Lee, Chair
Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation

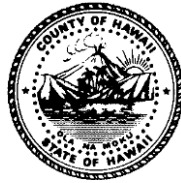
The County of Maui Department of Environmental Management stands in **SUPPORT of HB 1411 HD 2** which relates to the registration of vehicles.

By requiring an address and buyer's signature on a Notice of Transfer (N.O.T.), this measure would strengthen the legality and accountability for both parties involved in transfer of ownership of a vehicle. We believe this will discourage fraud or forgery, and provides legal recourse for someone wrongfully named on a N.O.T. This would increase the ability of the Abandoned Vehicles office to hold the correct parties accountable should the vehicle that remains in N.O.T. status at the time of abandonment.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in support of HB 1411 HD 2.**

Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor

Lee Lord
Managing Director



Ramzi I. Mansour
Director

Brenda Iokepa-Moses
Deputy Director

County of Hawai'i

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

345 Kekūanāo'a Street, Suite 41 · Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 · cohdem@hawaiiicounty.gov

Ph: (808) 961-8083 · Fax: (808) 961-8086

March 14, 2022

Sen. Chris Lee, Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation

Chair Lee and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1411 HD2. The County of Hawai'i Department of Environmental Management supports the intent of this bill to improve accountability for ownership and proper disposal of vehicles.

Sincerely,

Ramzi Mansour
Director, Department of Environmental Management
County of Hawai'i



THE SENATE
THE THIRTY FIRST LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2022

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
Senator Chris Lee, Chair
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING
On
HB1411, HD2
TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2022
3:00 P. M.
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

The Hawaii County of Mayors supports H. B. 1411, HD2, which requires that both the transferee's and transferor's address be provided on the certificate of ownership when the title to a motor vehicle is transferred. The Bill specifies that providing false or fraudulent information subjects a party to penalties.

HCOM further supports this legislation in recognition that more than eight thousand vehicles are abandoned in Hawaii every year. In 2019, four thousand seven hundred abandoned vehicles were reported on Oahu, one thousand six hundred twenty abandoned vehicles were reported on Maui, one thousand six hundred twenty abandoned vehicles were reported on Hawaii Island, and nine hundred abandoned vehicles were reported on Kauai.

These abandoned vehicles are an eyesore in communities, harmful to the environment, and a financial burden to the counties. Because of fraud occurring at the vehicle title transfer level, there is an ongoing issue with locating the proper owner that has been abandoned.

The Hawaii Council of Mayors urge your support with our efforts to keep our public and environment safe and healthy.

Hawaii Council of Mayors (HCOM):

Derek Kawakami, Mayor, Kauai County

Rick Blangiardi, Mayor, City County of Honolulu

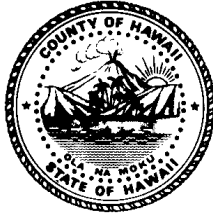
Mitch Roth, Mayor, Hawaii County

Michael P. Victorino, Maui County of Maui, HCOM President (808-270-7855)

HEATHER L. KIMBALL

Council Member

*Chair, Committee on Governmental Operations,
Relations and Economic Development
Council District 1*



Contact Information

(808) 961-8828

(808) 961-8018 (staff)

heather.kimball@hawaiiicounty.gov

LATE

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

*County of Hawai'i
Hawai'i County Building
25 Aupuni Street, Suite 1402
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720*

TO: Honorable Senator Chris Lee , Chair
Senate Committee on Transportation

FROM: Heather L. Kimball
Council Member, District 1

DATE: March 14, 2022

SUBJECT: SUPPORT HB 1411, Relating to REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of this important measure to address the issues of abandoned vehicles in our communities. I fully support the intent of this bill to require that the transferee's and transferor's address be provided on the certificate of ownership when the title to a motor vehicle is transferred. Clarifies that the signature of the transferee and signature of the transferor each serve as an attestation by that respective party as to the validity of the information on the certificate of ownership. Imposes a fine on a party who provides false or fraudulent information.

I ask for your **SUPPORT** of HB 1411.

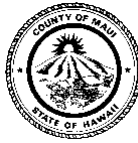
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather Kimball".

Heather Kimball
Hawai'i County Council Member

Council Chair
Alice L. Lee

LATE



Director of Council Services
Traci N. T. Fujita, Esq.

Vice-Chair
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez


Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
Tasha Kama

Councilmembers
Gabe Johnson
Kelly Takaya King
Michael J. Molina
Tamara Paltin
Shane M. Sinenci
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

March 14, 2022

TO: Honorable Chris Lee, Chair
Senate Committee on Transportation

FROM: 
Yuki Lei Sugimura
Councilmember

DATE: March 14, 2022

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT FOR HB 1411, RELATING TO REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to require that both the transferee and transferor in a motor vehicle transfer both provide their address on the certificate of ownership.

I SUPPORT this measure as a means to address the growing number of abandoned vehicles in Hawaii. Large numbers of abandoned vehicles create severe environmental hazards, are an eyesore in our communities, and put a large financial burden on the counties. HB 1411 helps to address fraud during vehicle transfers and will better allow counties to locate the proper owner of an abandoned vehicle, and subsequently hold them accountable.

For the foregoing reasons, I SUPPORT this measure.



Maui Metropolitan
Planning Organization

LATE

200 South High Street
Wailuku, HI 96793
www.mauimpo.org

March 15, 2022

Testimony of Lauren Armstrong
Maui MPO Executive Director
On behalf of Maui MPO Policy Board

Before the Senate Committee on Transportation

March 15, 2022 at 3:00pm
Conference Room 224

HB1411 HD2 RELATING TO REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES

Honorable Chris Lee, Chair
Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation

The Maui MPO Policy Board **supports** HB1411 HD2 as part of an effort to hold vehicle owners accountable for the disposal of their vehicles and keep our roadsides safe. Abandoned vehicles are a safety concern, harmful to the environment, and a financial burden. Due to fraud occurring at the vehicle title transfer level, there is an ongoing issue with locating the proper owners of vehicles that have been abandoned.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lauren Armstrong'.

Lauren Armstrong
Executive Director, Maui MPO
On behalf of the Maui MPO Policy Board

HB-1411-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2022 10:15:54 AM

Testimony for TRS on 3/15/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Tucker	Testifying for Friends of Puna's Future	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Correcting the lack of chain of title on vehicles is long overdue. I support this bill.

HB-1411-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2022 3:17:12 PM

Testimony for TRS on 3/15/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
james ozone	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a good start, but it doesn't go far enough; currently, the abandoned vehicle disposal program only applies to public roads, not the "privately owned" roads common in many subdivisions.

I propose that the cost of disposal be collected from the new owner when title is transferred, to be held in trust until the vehicle is properly disposed of or sold, similar to the HI-5 deposit levied on beverage containers. This would entice owners to do the right thing, and cover the costs of any abandoned vehicle anywhere. Tough, but also fair.

HB-1411-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2022 3:26:12 PM

Testimony for TRS on 3/15/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rebecca Corby	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this common sense bill. It won't take much to add a line on the vehicle title for the buyers info. Adding this in will help prevent issues of vehicle ownership and theft. Please pass this simple common sense bill to help reduce vehicle theft

Mahalo

HB 1411

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 1411. This bill would require the address of both the transferee as well as the transferor on certificate of ownership to a motor vehicle. The additional information that would be collected if this bill passes would assist the local police with identifying the owner of vehicles that are abandoned. On the Big Island of Hawaii, there is an almost unbelievable number of vehicles that are left along the side of the ride. When asked about this problem, local law enforcement officers have identified being able to trace the ownership of these vehicles as one of the primary problems they face when dealing with abandoned vehicles. Let's give the police the support that they need to address this growing problem by collecting the additional information needed.

Please support the passage of HB 1411. It gives the police departments of our state the help they need with reducing the number of vehicles left along the side of the road. Mahalo for your consideration.

Barbara Cigainero

Keaau, HI 96749

HB-1411-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2022 10:09:56 AM

Testimony for TRS on 3/15/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Renee Rabb	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm writing in support of HB1411, which requires both the seller and buyers address to be noted on a car transfer of title. We have so many abandoned cars in our area of the state that anything that can help reduce the number of them should be explored. This will help make it clear who the car actually belongs to and who is actually responsible for it. I commend Rep. Ilagan for his efforts to address a neighborhood problem.

Mahalo,

Renee Rabb

Keaau, HI 96749

HB-1411-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2022 2:52:27 PM

Testimony for TRS on 3/15/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
J.P. Hall	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am for this bill. The number of abandoned vehicles is unacceptable. Mahalo

HB-1411-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 10:12:11 AM

Testimony for TRS on 3/15/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
SHAWN LOHAY	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I laid eyes on my first abandoned vehicles while I was on vacation in the late 90's. I was driving the road to Hana, and thought to myself - how could a State as beautiful as Hawaii allow this to happen. At the time there must have been 3-5 junked cars along that very twisty, scenic road traveled by thousands of visitors. I was horrified.

Fast forward several years to 2013 when I became a resident of Ocean View and started traveling the road between my new home and Kona. I was overwhelmed by the number of Abandoned cars not only in HOVE - which in many places looks like a toxic waste dump, but also by the sheer number of junk cars pushed out to the sides of the main road that ALL of us travel (resident and visitor alike) left to rust, rot, and leach fluids into the aina. They sat there getting stripped to the frame for months and nothing was done. Then they turned into burned hulks. Pilau.

There is no question in my mind, and there should be NONE in yours, that something MUST be done to deal with this pernicious problem. These bills HB 1411, 1412, 1413 are a start and deserve your full support. Please vote YES and continue to vote YES as these bills are moved through

committees. It's past time to mitigate this persistent long-term problem. It can no longer be ignored.

Sincerely,

Shawn Lohay

HB-1411-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 1:02:42 PM

Testimony for TRS on 3/15/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tristan D Rice	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB-1411. Abandoning vehicles on the roads for the purposes of disposal is and has been a ever growing problem. Good citizens do not do this.

HB-1411-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 1:54:38 PM

Testimony for TRS on 3/15/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julia Lindbergh	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am IN favor of this bill. Julia Lindbergh, RN

LATE

HB-1411-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 3:46:53 PM

Testimony for TRS on 3/15/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Montague	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support any bill that aims to make abandoned vehicles more traceable and helps to reduce the numbers of junk cars on the sides of our roads. Thank you.

LATE

HB-1411-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 7:12:04 PM

Testimony for TRS on 3/15/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ralph Boyea	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee and members of the Transportation Committee,

I am writing in full **SUPPORT** of HB 1411 HD2

Maintaining an accurate record of vehicle ownership is a necessary first step in dealing with the abandoned vehicle problem.

Please vote in favor of HB 1411 HD2.

Mahalo

Ralph Boyea

HB-1411-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 9:21:13 AM

Testimony for TRS on 3/15/2022 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joan Pieper	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe this is necessary to better track the registrations.

That way if something happens involving the vehicle it will be easier to locate the actual oners.

I don't know why we would have to wait until year 2050 to make this effective.

LATE

HB-1411-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 9:41:12 AM

Testimony for TRS on 3/15/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Edward Pieper	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The more ways to trace ownership of the vehicles the better. If any vehicle causes a problem, the police need to be able to find the true owners.