



COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

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| Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto    |                        |

NOTICE OF HEARING

Wednesday, February 23, 2022  
2:30 p.m.

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE  
Conference Room 308  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Testimony of Hawaii Council of Mayors  
on  
HB 1412, HD1  
Relating to Abandoned Vehicles; Distance  
Requirements; Counties

The Hawaii Council of Mayors supports H. B. 1412, which requires the counties to provide a minimum distance a vehicle must be moved within a specified timeframe after a vehicle is initially inspected for abandonment to avoid an official classification of abandonment.

We urge the legislature to support the counties in which the vehicle is located to establish an ordinance to define abandonment in accordance with distance requirements and specified timeframe.

Abandoned vehicles on public streets create widespread environmental issues as well as unsafe and unhealthy conditions for Hawaii residents. The existing law creates problems with a loophole that it may be deemed abandoned but no longer classified as abandoned if it moves an inch or two from the location where it was noticed abandoned.

The Hawaii Council of Mayors urge your support with our efforts to keep our environments safe and healthy. Thank you.

Hawaii Council County of Mayors

Derek Kawakami, Mayor, Kauai County

Rick Blangiardi, Mayor, City and County of Honolulu  
Mitch Roth, Mayor, Mayor, Hawaii County  
Michael P. Victorino, HCOM President, (808-270-7855)

February 23, 2022

MICHAEL P. VICTORINO  
Mayor

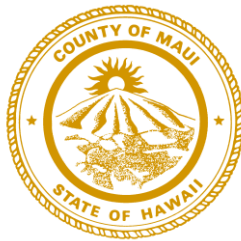
ERIC A. NAKAGAWA, P.E.  
Director

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

February 22, 2022

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

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
Wednesday, February 23, 2022, 2:30 p.m.  
Via Videoconference

In consideration of **HOUSE BILL 1412 HD 1 RELATING TO ABANDONED VEHICLES**  
Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair  
Honorable Members of the Committee on Finance

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The County of Maui Department of Environmental Management stands in **SUPPORT of HB 1412 HD 1** which relates to abandoned vehicles and minimum distance.

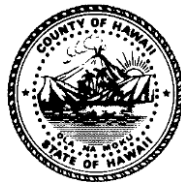
This bill will help counties to address vehicles in instances where non-operational vehicles are being pushed or towed short distances in order to avoid removal by the county. The bill will allow counties to designate the distances that are appropriate for each of their geographic and population densities, as well as to develop our own methods of accounting for those distances. Rural areas may need a greater allowance of distance than islands that are more urban or densely populated. Overall, this bill will allow counties to address certain abandoned and derelict vehicles with more efficiency and timeliness. We do think the problem is significant enough to warrant new legislation.

Therefore, we urge this committee to pass this bill in order to strengthen HRS Ch. 290 to allow the counties to determine best practices for vehicles that are clearly abandoned or derelict, but being tampered with by those who would circumvent the law.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of **HB 1412 HD 1**.

**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

February 22, 2022

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair, and  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Chair Luke and Committee Members,

The County of Hawai'i Department of Environmental Management supports HB 1412, HD1, which allows the counties to remove existing ambiguity in the statute, which can impede the enforceability of towing laws.

Abandoned vehicles are a challenge in all counties and I appreciate this effort to provide clarity for the goal of a clean, safe, and healthy island environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ramzi I. Mansour", is written over a horizontal line.

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

# Hawai'i State Association of Counties (HSAC)

Counties of Kaua'i, Maui, Hawai'i, and City & County of Honolulu

Website: [hawaiicounties.org](http://hawaiicounties.org) | Email: [hsac@hawaiicounties.org](mailto:hsac@hawaiicounties.org)



Testimony of the

**Hawai'i State Association of Counties**

on

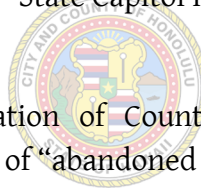
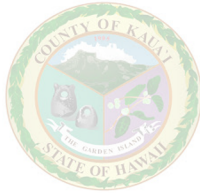
**H.B. No. 1412, H.D.1**

**Relating to Abandoned Vehicles.**

Committee on Finance

Wednesday, February 23, 2022, 3:30 p.m.

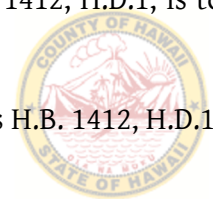
State Capitol Room 308



The Hawai'i State Association of Counties (HSAC) strongly supports H.B. 1412, H.D.1, which clarifies the definition of "abandoned vehicle."

A vehicle is "abandoned" if it is defined to be abandoned by an ordinance of the county in which the vehicle is located. In the absence of such an ordinance, a vehicle is "abandoned" if it is left unattended for a continuous period of more than twenty-four hours and it is unlawfully parked on any public highway or other public property or private lands defined as a setback, shoulder, easement, or right of way that is adjacent to or part of a public highway. H.B. 1412, H.D.1, requires the counties to specify a minimum distance a vehicle must be moved within a specified time to avoid being classified as abandoned. The objective of H.B. 1412, H.D.1, is to expedite the removal of abandoned vehicles from public streets.

For these reasons the Hawai'i State Association of Counties strongly supports H.B. 1412, H.D.1, and requests your favorable consideration of this measure.



**HB-1412-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 12:05:04 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2022 2:30:00 PM

| Submitted By                    | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura | Individual   | Support            | No                         |

Comments:

This bill addresses the little things that makes it difficult to enforce the abandoned vehicles challenges. I support HB 1412. Thank you Representative Ilagan for the research you have done and discussing the challenges of abandoned vehicles enforcement.

I support HB 1412.

Yuki Lei Sugimura

Councilmember, Maui County

**HB-1412-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 10:31:51 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2022 2:30:00 PM

| Submitted By        | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| P Hauoli'ipo Wright | Individual   | Support            | No                         |

## Comments:

I believe this is a reasonable requirement, especially if the owner is away or immediately unavailable and is unaware of the issue. However, I would add the "notice be provided" part of this specify that this notice be mailed to the owner of the vehicle; in case the vehicle was stolen and he or she is unaware of it's location. This mailed notification with a specified completion date would allow him or her (or a contact) to go get the vehicle or fulfill the obligation before the vehicle is officially deemed abandon.

**HB-1412-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 11:04:52 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2022 2:30:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Remote Testimony<br/>Requested</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Ralph Boyea         | Individual          | Support                   | No                                    |

Comments:

Chair Luke and Finance Committee members,

I am writing in support of HB 1412 HD1.

Please assist the Counties in enforcing abandoned vehicle legislation by passing HB1412.

Thank you.

Ralph Boyea



Testimony in Support of HB1412 moving abandoned vehicles a short distance.

I support HB 1412 which closes a loophole that allows people to move their abandoned cars a few inches to avoid the vehicle being classified as abandoned. This is should have been fixed years ago.

Abandoned cars are a real problem and we need to get them off the roadway as quickly and easily as possible.

Renee Rabb

Keaau, HI 96749

**HB-1412-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 12:19:49 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2022 2:30:00 PM

| Submitted By      | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Barbara Cigainero | Individual   | Support            | No                         |

## Comments:

Dear Committee Chair and Members: Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1412. I live in the Puna Region of the Big Island of Hawaii. Abandoned vehicles are left along roadsides with great regularity. There appears to be a loophole in the law that allows for an abandoned vehicle to be moved a few feet and satisfy the notice requirement left on the vehicle. Please help us to address the problem of blight that is excacerbated by this loop hole. After these cars are left for a few days they often become subject to being stripped of parts and then set on fire. Owners need to be responsible for removing their vehicles to safe and appropriate sites, not left along the roads of our highways and subdivisions.

I appreciate your consideration of HB 1412.

Mahalo, Barbara Cigainero, Keeau, HI 96749

**HB-1412-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 1:33:23 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2022 2:30:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Remote Testimony<br/>Requested</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Julia Lindbergh     | Individual          | Support                   | No                                    |

Comments:

I favor HB 1412. Julia Lindbergh

**HB-1412-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 1:51:45 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2022 2:30:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Remote Testimony<br/>Requested</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Allen Bartolome     | Individual          | Support                   | No                                    |

Comments:

I support the passing of this bill

**HB-1412-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 5:29:49 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2022 2:30:00 PM

| Submitted By    | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Judith Ann Tang | Individual   | Support            | No                         |

Comments:

HB1412 will give my county, Puna, and the rest of Hawaii, a chance to get rid of all the dumped stripped cars that are such an eyesore for the Puna area. I drive home from work and look down the side streets and see cars just left and stripped. It is uncomfortable to live in such a dumpy-looking area. No one seems to have a good explanation for why car owners can get away with just dumping their cars. After attending my local town hall meeting, this bill will be perfect to help control the car situation. I am in full support of anything that will keep my neighborhood beautiful and safe.

**HB-1412-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 11:37:02 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2022 2:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Becky Jones  | Individual   | Support            | No                         |

Comments:

I support any and all efforts to close any and all loopholes in statutes, ordinances, etc. that relate to abandoned vehicles. This problem has become severe in many areas on our islands. As a volunteer for my subdivision, I tag and report abandoned and derelict vehicles and the properties being used as illegal junkyards often overflow onto the roadways. The individuals dealing in these vehicles (often stolen) know the laws and taunt the system. It is like playing whack-a-mole as they move cars around our subdivision as soon as they are tagged by law enforcement. While this bill doesn't solve the problem in its entirety, it is a step in the right direction.

**HB-1412-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 11:56:47 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2022 2:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Eda Motonaga | Individual   | Support            | No                         |

Comments:

Transcribed by Nicky Watts:

"Abandoned Vehicles: there is a whole bunch of abandoned vehicles. It makes the landscape look like trash. I wish the bill would pass to get the attention that they need. They need to be given a fine to be responsible for their actions. Or they could put it in a place where it could be used for parts rather than just leave it in an land. If they had one area that the abandoned cars could be dropped off so that people could use the parts that would be better. The money could help with the community. They probably left their trash, their envelopes in their car, and they should get a big fine. They just trash the whole land. You have to respect the land. If they leave the abandoned car, other people come and take parts and then they're leaving the trash car."

**HB-1412-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 12:22:43 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2022 2:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Dustin Swan  | Individual   | Support            | No                         |

Comments:

Any efforts to curb the abandoned vehicle situation in Hawaii should be supported by the States and Counties.



**HB-1412-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 12:33:47 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2022 2:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Nicole Watts | Individual   | Support            | No                         |

Comments:

I support bill HB1412 because it will allow the county to formulate a plan that is most appropriate for their communities when dealing with Abandoned Vehicles and the distance they need to be moved to prevent being towed.