

MICHAEL P. VICTORINO  
Mayor

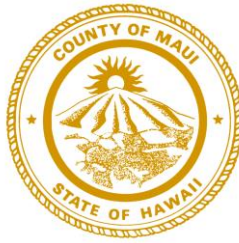
ERIC A. NAKAGAWA, P.E.  
Director

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 15, 2022

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

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND THE SENATE  
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS  
Thursday, March 17, 2022, 3:15 p.m.  
Via Videoconference

In consideration of **HOUSE BILL 1413 HD 2 RELATING TO ABANDONED VEHICLES**

Honorable Senator Chris Lee, Chair

Honorable Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Chair

Honorable Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair

Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

Honorable Members of the Committee on Transportation

Honorable Members of the Committee on Government Operations

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The County of Maui Department of Environmental Management stands in **STRONG SUPPORT**  
**of HB 1413 HD 2** which relates to abandoned vehicles and a hold on registration and licenses.

This bill will serve to put a "hold" on registrations or license renewals for those who owe outstanding charges on abandoned vehicles for which they are named as the registered owner. This bill will be crucial and most effective because it will act as a deterrent and preventative measure as well hold those who abandon vehicles accountable for the expenses incurred by their actions. The bill also protects those whose vehicles were reported stolen.

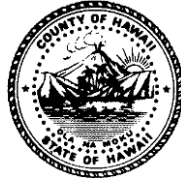
Counties have faced difficulties in recovering fees, even when accounts are sent to collection agencies. County of Maui currently only recovers about 14% of outstanding balances. While this is of great fiscal significance, just as important—or even more so—may be the aspect of deterrence. When vehicle owners are aware that they will be prevented from making a new car legal and held financially accountable for abandoning their vehicle wrongfully, they may be more likely to dispose of their old vehicles safely and legally through County programs that can help them to do so. We believe that this bill will be extremely effective as a preventative measure, which is why we have been advocating for this type of legislation for many years.

We urge this committee to pass this bill without reservation in order to recover costs and significantly decrease the number of abandoned vehicles that must be addressed in Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in strong support of HB 1413 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

Sen. Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Chair, and  
Members of the Senate Committee on Government Operations

Chair Lee, Chair Moriwaki, and Committee Members,

The County of Hawai'i Department of Environmental Management supports HB 1413, HD2, to address the problem of abandoned vehicles in all counties.

While this measure primarily impacts the operations of the counties' finance departments, to which we will defer, abandoned vehicles are a visual blight on our landscape, degrade our island environment, and burden taxpayers with the cost of disposal. DEM supports the intent of this bill to ensure that the scofflaws who abandon these vehicles are responsible for their proper disposal.

Sincerely,

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

# 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 Kaua'i

Before the

### Committee on Transportation

### Committee on Government Operations

March 17, 2022 at 3:15 pm

224 Via Videoconference

In consideration of

### House Bill 1413 HD2

### Relating to the Registration of Vehicles

Honorable Chairs Lee and Moriwaki, Vice Chairs Inouye and Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committees:

The Finance Department of the County of Kaua'i **supports** HB 1413 HD2, which allows the director of finance of a county to require payment of outstanding charges owed to the county for the towing, removal, or disposal of an abandoned or derelict vehicle within the county before issuing a motor vehicle certificate of registration.

The County of Kaua'i, like many other jurisdictions, has a major issue with abandoned and derelict vehicles. While our Kaua'i Police Department (KPD) is faced with addressing the towing and removal of these vehicles, the motor vehicle division is trying to work closely with KPD to address the root cause of the issue.

In preliminary discussions with KPD, they have a difficult time enforcing the collection of outstanding towing and related costs. In addition, there are recurring offenders who litter our island with cars. When their names were mentioned in our meetings, our motor vehicle staff indicated that they are regularly in the DMV transferring and registering vehicles.

While the HRS grants the Finance Director with leverage over some outstanding citations, it does not give authority over charges related to the towing, removal, and disposal of abandoned and derelict vehicles. If we were able to turn away these recurring offenders from transferring and/or registering vehicles, it would either force them to pay the bills that are now being absorbed by KPD or it would prevent them from improperly disposing these additional vehicles.

It is for these reasons, that we **support** HB 1413 HD2. Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.



THE SENATE  
THE THIRTY FIRST LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2022

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Senator Chris Lee, Chair

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Chair

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

On

**HB1413, HD2**

TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2022

3:15 P. M.

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

The Hawaii Council of Mayors strongly supports H.B. 1413 which allows the director of finance of a county to require payment of outstanding charges and fines owed to the county relating to the disposition of an abandoned vehicle within the county by the registered owner of the abandoned vehicle before issuing a certificate of registration or completing a transfer of ownership, except under certain circumstances. It further requires the county directors to notify the appropriate county examiner of drivers of individuals who have outstanding charges and fines owed to the county relating to the disposition of an abandoned vehicle, who shall have their licenses revoked, suspended, or prohibited from being renewed.

This legislation will effectively deter vehicle owners from abandoning their vehicles and will assist counties to recover the high cost of towing, storage and disposal of abandoned and derelict vehicles. Counties tow and manage a disproportionately high number of abandoned vehicles per year. Abandoned vehicles cause public safety hazards on our public streets and islands. Operational funds expended per year per county varies but can average approximately \$1,000,000.00, due to additional cost for vehicle cleanouts, special cleanups, and related costs. This measure will significantly assist the counties with recouping expenses of removing abandoned and derelict vehicles from public roadways and properties.

Thank you for allowing the Hawaii Council of Mayors to testify in support of Bill 1413.

Hawaii Council of Mayors (HCOM)

Derek Kawakami, Mayor, County of Kauai

Rick Blangiardi, Mayor, City and County of Honolulu

Mitch Roth, Mayor, Hawaii County of Hawaii

Michael P. Victorino, Mayor, County of Maui and HCOM President

# 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**

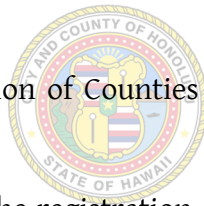
on

**H.B. No. 1413, H.D.2**

**Relating to Abandoned Vehicles**

Committee on Transportation and Government Operations

Thursday, March 17, 2022, 3:15 p.m.



The Hawai'i State Association of Counties (HSAC) strongly **supports** H.B. 1413 H.D.2, which:

- Requires, as a condition for the registration or transfer of ownership of a motor vehicle, the payment of outstanding charges and fines relating to the disposition of an abandoned vehicle; and

Requires the notification of the examiner of drivers to suspend, revoke, or prohibit renewal of the driver's license of individuals with outstanding charges and fines owed to the county relating to the disposition of an abandoned vehicle.

The growing volume and number of complaints about abandoned vehicles taxes the counties ability to post, tow and dispose of abandoned vehicles in a timely and efficient manner, and the costs relating to abandoned/derelict vehicles continue to grow. The counties need the authority to levy and collect all charges related to towing, removal, and disposal of abandoned and derelict vehicles, including the authority to deny recurring offenders from transferring and/or registering vehicles unless their outstanding charges have been paid.

For these reasons the Hawai'i State Association of Counties strongly supports H.B. 1413, H.D.2, and requests your favorable consideration of this measure.



**Maui Metropolitan  
Planning Organization**

200 South High Street  
Wailuku, HI 96793  
[www.mauimpo.org](http://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 and Senate Committee on Government Operations

March 17, 2022 at 3:15pm  
Conference Room 224

**HB1413 HD2 RELATING TO ABANDONED VEHICLES**

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

Honorable Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Chair  
Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Government Operations

The Maui MPO Policy Board **supports** HB1413 HD2. The measure will deter vehicle owners from abandoning their vehicles and will assist counties to recover the high cost of towing, storage and disposal of abandoned and derelict vehicles. When vehicle owners are aware that they will be prevented from making a new car legal and will be held financially accountable for abandoning their vehicle wrongfully, they may be more likely to dispose of their old vehicles safely and legally through County programs that help them to do so.

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

**COUNTY COUNCIL**

Arryl Kaneshiro, Chair  
Mason K. Chock, Vice Chair  
Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.  
Felicia Cowden  
Bill DeCosta  
Luke A. Evslin  
KipuKai Kualii



**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK**

Jade K. Fountain-Tanigawa, County Clerk  
Scott K. Sato, Deputy County Clerk

Telephone: (808) 241-4188  
Facsimile: (808) 241-6349  
E-mail: cokcouncil@kauai.gov

**Council Services Division**  
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209  
Lihu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96766

March 15, 2022

**TESTIMONY OF MASON K. CHOCK**  
**COUNCIL VICE CHAIR, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**ON**  
**HB 1413, HD2, RELATING TO ABANDONED VEHICLES**  
Senate Committee on Transportation  
Senate Committee on Government Operations  
Thursday, March 17, 2022  
3:15 p.m.  
Via Videoconference  
Conference Room 224

Dear Chair Lee, Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1413, HD2, Relating to Abandoned Vehicles. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as Council Vice Chair of the Kaua'i County Council and as a member of the County's Abandoned Vehicle Task Force.

I wholeheartedly support the intent of HB 1413, HD2, to address the problem of abandoned vehicles in our communities. Abandoned vehicles are a public eyesore for the affected communities and pose environmental issues creating unsafe conditions for Hawai'i residents. Additionally, abandoned vehicles pose a financial burden to the State and counties as it relates to the disposal costs and outstanding fines.

HB 1413, HD2, would establish additional requirements for selling a vehicle, requiring both buyer and seller to provide signatures and addresses when transferring ownership of the vehicle. This will encourage more accurate and traceable information. HB 1413, HD2, will help to address the issues with abandoned vehicles and includes each county's input, which reflects a conscious effort by stakeholders representing each island.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide testimony. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188 or via E-mail to cokcouncil@kauai.gov.

Sincerely,

**MASON K. CHOCK**  
Council Vice Chair, Kaua'i County Council

AMK:mn

**HB-1413-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 7:05:21 PM

Testimony for TRS on 3/17/2022 3:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Lee and Moriwaki

And members of the Senate Transportation and Government Operations Committees

I am hereby testifying in favor of HB 1413.

Abandoned vehicles are a significant problem on the Island of Hawaii. This is especially true in the subdivision I live in, Orchidland Estates in Puna.

I fully support proactive measures that will help in Counties address this problem.

I believe vehicle owners should be held accountable for the disposal of their vehicles. Maintaining a record of owners who's vehicles were abandoned is a necessary first step toward the accountability actions set forth in HB 1413.

Non-renewal of one's driver's license sounds like a major deterrent to anyone considering abandonment of their vehicle.

Thank you for addressing this issue.



**HB-1413-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 10:45:59 PM

Testimony for TRS on 3/17/2022 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Judith Ann Tang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of HB1413. Abandoned cars are an eyesore to our community. The owners need to be held accountable. If fines need to be levied to stop the dumping of the cars so be it. I do not want our community to look poor and the property values to go down because of abandoned cars. Please pass this bill so that our area can get cleaned up.

**HB-1413-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 7:53:15 AM

Testimony for TRS on 3/17/2022 3:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Brian F Jordan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

There have tp be consequences and this allows local governmetn to address the issue.

**HB-1413-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 8:21:32 AM

Testimony for TRS on 3/17/2022 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Cole	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Yes! Please pass this legislation to help address the abandoned vehicle problems!

Thank you,

Robert Cole

Pukalani

**HB-1413-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 5:22:29 PM

Testimony for TRS on 3/17/2022 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Cigainero	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

Dear Committee Chair and Members: Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1413. This bill would require an individual who has outstanding charges for vehicle abandonment to first pay off those charges before they are allowed to register a new vehicle. We need this legislation in the Puna Region of Hawaii Island because of the numerous number of vehicles that are regularly abandoned. I believe that this bill would be a deterrent to abandoning vehicles and would help the Counties by increasing the collection of fines.

Thank you for your consideration of this common sense approach to solving a big problem. I urge your support for HB 1413.

**HB-1413-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 8:29:00 AM

Testimony for TRS on 3/17/2022 3:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

I agree with this completely. The best way to get people to comply with laws is to hit them at their pocketbook.

**HB-1413-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 9:15:31 AM

Testimony for TRS on 3/17/2022 3:15:00 PM

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

## Comments:

I totally support HB1413 by Rep. Ilegan which will require people to pay their abandoned vehicle fines prior to renewing their driver's licenses or from registering another car. It's a real shame that people somehow believe that they can behave irresponsibly and that there will be no consequences for their action.

I believe that the best solution for the abandoned car problem would be for the state to address the expense of legal, responsible vehicle disposal. Then conscientious people can get rid of junk cars more easily.

Until that time, we have to enforce penalties against illegal vehicle abandonment. This bill provides some tools to do that.

Renee Rabb

Keaau, HI 96749

**HB-1413-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 9:35:20 AM

Testimony for TRS on 3/17/2022 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Esteban	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support of agriculture farming believe this is a step in the right direction

**HB-1413-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 2:42:27 PM

Testimony for TRS on 3/17/2022 3:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support HB 1413. Julia Lindbergh, RN



**LATE**

**HB-1413-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 7:30:10 AM

Testimony for TRS on 3/17/2022 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karen Hester	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I work on calling in abandoned vehicles from Lower Puna. Why should we as taxpayers have to pay for the irresponsibility of folks who abandon their vehicles creating toxins in the land plus visual pollution? This measure would try and hold those folks responsible and hopefully also be a deterrent once implemented. Longoverdue and very common sense measure and easy to implement as VIN number can be tied to a name and birthdate.