



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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February 15, 2022

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON HUMAN SERVICES AND TRANSPORTATION

Senate Bill 3121 – Relating to Funding for Parking for Disabled Persons

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) strongly supports Senate Bill 3121 Relating to Funding for Parking for Disabled Persons. The purpose of this bill is to increase the annual vehicle registration fee by \$1.00, which will be deposited into the DCAB accessible parking special account in the DCAB special fund to administer the parking for persons with disabilities program.

DCAB is the State agency responsible for the overall coordination and administration of this federally required program. DCAB coordinates with the counties to issue first time, temporary, and replacement placards. The long term placard renewals are issued through a mail-in process by the DCAB office.

Currently the parking for persons with disabilities program is one hundred percent general funded, except for a small portion of revenue collected and retained by the Counties for issuing replacement and temporary placards.

The proposed DCAB accessible parking special account in the DCAB special fund ensures the program to be self-sufficient. The COVID-19 pandemic severely impacted the program and without a stable funding mechanism, the parking for persons with disabilities program will be a severe loss for people with disabilities who use their placards daily for transportation to purchase groceries, and attend medical appointments, etc.

The DCAB accessible parking special account will ensure any future economic decline does not disrupt the parking program that is required by federal law, The Uniform System for Handicapped Parking, Public Law No. 100-641.

DCAB requests that the Committees amend two lines to SB 3121 for the appropriate year to establish the DCAB accessible parking special account in the DCAB special fund and the appropriate section of the Hawaii Revised Statutes is 249-31. The changes are:

- (1) Page 1 line 4: "Beginning July 1, [2022] 2023,..."
- (2) Page 2 line 13: "[291] 249-31 **State registration fee.**"

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristine Pagano

for KIRBY L. SHAW
Executive Director

TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

126 Queen Street, Suite 305

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SUBJECT: MOTOR VEHICLE, Increase Vehicle Registration Fee to Support Accessible Parking

BILL NUMBER: SB 3121, HB 2153

INTRODUCED BY: SB by KOUCHI by request; HB by SAIKI by request (Governor's Package)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Creates an accessible parking special account within the disability and communication access board special fund. Increases the state vehicle registration fee by \$1, to be deposited into the accessible parking special account. Requires all costs associated with the statewide parking program for persons with disabilities to be appropriated from the accessible parking special account beginning July 1, 2023.

SYNOPSIS: Adds a new section to chapter 291, HRS, stating that all costs associated with the statewide parking program for persons with disabilities shall be paid by the new special account.

Adds a new section to chapter 348F, HRS, establishing an accessible parking special account within the disability and communication access board special fund (section 348F-7, HRS).

Amends section 291-31, HRS, to increase the state motor vehicle registration fee by \$1 and earmarking that \$1 to the establishing an accessible parking special account.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2023.

STAFF COMMENTS: This is an Administration bill sponsored by the Department of Health and designated HTH-25 (22).

We are providing testimony on the special account component of the bill. The 1989 Tax Review Commission noted that use of special fund financing is a "departure from Hawaii's sound fiscal policies and should be avoided." It also noted that special funds are appropriate where the revenues to the funds maintain some direct connection between a public service and the beneficiary of that service. The Commission found that special funds which merely set aside general funds cannot be justified as such actions restrict budget flexibility, create inefficiencies, and lessen accountability. It recommended that such programs can be given priority under the normal budget process without having to resort to this type of financing.

Repeal of special funds enhances transparency and accountability in the budgeting process. The present bill does not add a special fund but it adds a special account within an existing special fund, adding to the complexity of accounting for State funds.

Digested: 2/8/2022

SB-3121

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 6:10:04 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/15/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lynn Murakami Akatsuka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To Committee Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services and Senate Committee on Transportation,

I strongly support the passage of SB 3121 to provide an accessible parking special account within the Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) special fund. I am a disabled individual, an elderly citizen, and a user of the handicap parking permit. I previously served as a member on the DCAB Board and was informed of the increasing number of applicants (approximately 1%-2% more each year) applying for the handicap parking permit.

This bill will cover all the expenses for the accessible parking program which has been handling increased expenses in providing an on-going excellent service to the disabled population in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB 3121.

SB-3121

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 3:24:19 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/15/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

NO more FEES and or Charges. The Government works for us they should be absorbing these Fees not passing it on so they can pocket more money from the people.