



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
STATE COUNCIL  
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
PRINCESS VICTORIA KAMĀMALU BUILDING  
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543  
February 21, 2024

The Honorable Representative David Tarnas, Chair  
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs  
The Thirty-First Legislature  
State Capitol  
State of Hawai'i  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Representative Tarnas, and Committee members:

**SUBJECT: HB2447 RELATING TO PARKING FOR DISABLED PERSONS**

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **SUPPORTS HB2447**, which establishes a travel placard to be issued to an existing permittee, allowing the person to park a vehicle at a Hawai'i airport or port reserved accessible parking space and take the second placard for use at the travel destination.

The Council recognizes this measure's potential to enhance accessibility and fairness in parking provisions for disabled individuals. This measure provides a remedy for the diverse issues people with disabilities face when trying to use accessible parking at places like the airport or port. Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) rarely have a driver's license or their own vehicle. They rely on family and friends to drive them. One example of the hardship of having only one placard; Due to the lack of medical professionals on our neighbor islands they must fly to Oahu for their appointments. Parking at their island airport, they must leave their placard displayed in the windshield of their vehicle. When they arrive in Oahu, their parent/friend rents a vehicle, they need another placard. Without it, individuals who travel must choose to use accessible parking at the airport or at their destination as they only have one placard. To do this, at one of the locations, the driver must block traffic to assist the individual out of the vehicle and leave them in harm's way as they park the vehicle. This measure would be a simple creative solution around this.

The Council defers to the Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) for any substantive comments or recommendations. DCAB's expertise in accessibility matters, particularly in parking provisions, is crucial in shaping comprehensive and effective legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of HB2447**.

Sincerely,  
Daintry Bartoldus, Executive Administrator



## DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

1010 Richards Street, Room 118 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
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February 21, 2024

### TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

#### House Bill 2447 – Relating to Parking for Disabled Persons

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports House Bill 2447 Relating to Parking for Disabled Persons.

The bill establishes a travel placard to be issued to an existing permittee, allowing the person to park a vehicle at a Hawaii airport or port reserved accessible parking space and take the second placard for use at the travel destination.

Section 291-52, Hawaii Revised Statutes, limits a person with a long term disability to one long term parking placard, and if the person is the registered owner of the vehicle, the person may obtain special license plates for that vehicle. This allows the person to park the vehicle with the special license plates at an airport or port reserved accessible space and take the placard for use at the person's destination.

However, DCAB is aware that a number of permittees who use a family member or friend's vehicle without special license plates to get to their departure point. Others do not have special license plates because they believe the plates would disclose their disability and expose them to nefarious acts. Some have organizational plates, such as "Combat Veteran", that they do not want to give up. Altogether, these permittees find traveling off-island difficult, especially when traveling alone, because they either cannot use accessible parking at their departure point or at their destination.

This bill provides a simple remedy for the problem by allowing a permittee to obtain a "disability travel placard" that expires on the last day of the month following the permittee's return date. Several states offer a similar option to their permittees, and DCAB believes this is an option that should be available to Hawaii's permittees.

DCAB has the capacity to issue disability travel placards within its budget.

Thank you for considering our position.

Respectfully submitted,

KIRBY L. SHAW  
Executive Director

**HB-2447**

Submitted on: 2/16/2024 11:09:28 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sandi Kato-Klutke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in total favor for this bill. Please approve as this would definitely help those of us needing assistance for parking while parking at the airport & at travel destinations

Thank you

**HB-2447**

Submitted on: 2/16/2024 7:03:12 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is so very important to those of us who are disabled. Please support this bill. Mahalo.

To: House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs  
From: Patience Artero  
Date: February 16, 2024  
Hearing: 21 February, 2024, 2:00 PM (via Video Conference)  
Re: Testimony for HB2447

To whom it may concern,

Aloha. I am Patience Artero, an MSW student at the Thompson School of Social Work program at the University of Hawaii at Manoa who recognizes the much-needed support for HB2447.

In efforts to ensure individuals with mobility limitations or disabilities receive the necessary support, care, and ease of access to fulfill their needs, I am in **support** of HB2447 to establish a travel placard to be issued to an existing permittee, allowing the person to park a vehicle at Hawaii airport or port reserved accessible parking space and take the second placard for use at the travel destination. A mobility disability presents additional challenges and space needed for medical equipment such as a wheelchair, cane, crutch, walker, scooter, oxygen tank, or prosthetic. Some individuals' physical disability is not visible to the public eye, and they face challenges of walking remote distances due to other medical conditions.

Considering most individuals with mobility disabilities or impairments may be traveling off-island for medical care/ treatment, their travel (as well as family members or friends who may be assisting) to and from the State should be considered highly important. As an individual who has traveled on different occasions with a parent with a mobility impairment, it was difficult to inform the public that they needed accommodations when we got to our destination as they did not have a placard to travel off-island with. It was difficult because we were in unfamiliar places where public parking spaces were unavailable and did not provide sufficient space for the needed medical equipment. As a result, this caused many plans to be altered, additional time required to locate appropriate space, and physical and mental stress not only to my parent but to the family members and friends assisting as well. Returning home was also tiresome as the individuals picking us up were not authorized to park in the reserved accessible parking space- adding more stress to my parent, an individual with a mobility disability.

As members of our community, we must consider the needs of individuals facing physical challenges. Traveling off-island is physically demanding and stressful within itself. By having an additional travel placard available at the permittee's request, those with medical equipment or physical disabilities seen at a glance should be able to limit these challenges of traveling to and from their destination.

Mahalo, thank you for your time and the opportunity to provide written testimony **supporting** HB2447.

Respectfully,  
Patience Artero

Christynn Hara  
The University of Hawaii at Manoa  
Thompson School of Social Work & Public Health  
[Cthara@hawaii.edu](mailto:Cthara@hawaii.edu)  
808-677-7122  
94-864 Lumiiki St  
Waipahu, HI 96797  
Friday, February 16, 2024

Subject: Support for H.B. 2447, RELATING TO PARKING FOR DISABLED PERSONS

Dear Representatives and Committee Members,

I hope this correspondence finds you well. My name is Christynn Hara and I am a student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am writing to express my support for H.B. 2447, a bill to establish a new travel placard for individuals with disabilities. This placard would enable them to park their vehicles at designated accessible parking spots at Hawaii airports or ports and obtain a second placard for use at their travel destination.

It is important to acknowledge that people with disabilities still face significant barriers when it comes to accessing inclusive opportunities in our society. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), there are 247,977 adults with disabilities in Hawaii. My mother is one of them and requires dialysis. Despite her disability, she travels frequently as an evangelist. This bill would not only benefit my mother but also the other 247,977 adults with disabilities in Hawaii.

Did you know that adults with disabilities in Hawaii are more likely to experience health disparities such as depression, obesity, smoking, diabetes, and heart disease? As someone who is pursuing a Master's in Social Work with a specialization in health, I have seen firsthand how these health barriers, also known as social determinants of health (SDOH), can affect patients' housing, food, transportation, utilities, and interpersonal safety. By addressing these barriers, we can not only benefit disabled individuals but also make traveling a more accessible and comfortable experience for everyone.

I am grateful for the opportunity to express my support for this crucial issue. This bill has the potential to create a more equitable and fair justice system and I hope you will support it.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Christynn Hara





**HB-2447**

Submitted on: 2/19/2024 2:13:47 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To much Taxing .We the people are fed up with you people!!!!!!!!!!

**HB-2447**

Submitted on: 2/19/2024 2:58:58 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
STACEY DAWN GOODHUE-SOUZA- KAULULAAU	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Mr. David A. Tarnas**

**Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee**

**Bill HB 2447**

**Wednesday, Feb 21st,**

**2 pm, Via Video Conference, Conference Room 325**

**State Capital**

**415 South Beretania Street**

**My name is Stacey Dawn Goodhue-Souza-Kaululaau. I am writing in support of Bill HB 2447. As a mother of four children and a resident of Kāneʻohe, on the island of Oʻahu, I have experienced firsthand the struggles that individuals with mobility disabilities face when it comes to accessing parking spaces. It is not only a matter of convenience but also one of basic human rights and equal access to public spaces.**

**I am an independent hairstylist, and many of my clients are disabled and elderly. There have been many times when walking from the car to the salon is such a daunting task clients postpone receiving services or arrive completely out of breath. My clients always feel so much better after their service and often tell me they wish it were easier for them to come more often. Traveling is a similar issue; many of my clients postpone or stop traveling altogether because it is too difficult to get around. Choosing between using their placard at the airport or while traveling is a huge deterrent. Not to mention, many outer island residents have to fly to Oahu for doctor's appointments. I would hate to think that people may postpone life-saving appointments because of inequitable parking access. I am also studying Social work at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Through my studies, I have**

**gained a deeper understanding of the systemic barriers that individuals with disabilities face in their daily lives. Accessible parking for them means having equal opportunities to participate in society. It is not just about having a closer spot to the entrance. It is about being able to attend classes, run errands, or enjoy leisure activities. More importantly, just being able to do the daily activities that many of us take for granted. Having accessible parking in the airport and while on travel is extremely important. Travel for many able-bodied individuals is a daunting task in itself. Imagine having to transport all of your luggage along with extra mobility equipment or doing it while restricted. That's what the disabled community has to deal with when they travel.**

**However, I understand that misuse of disabled parking placards is a valid issue that not only deprives individuals with disabilities of their rightful access but also perpetuates a culture of disregard for the rights and needs of the broader disabled community. Mitigating the abuse is difficult, and it is disheartening for many when they witness able-bodied individuals take advantage of accommodations meant for those with mobility impairments, it only exacerbates the existing inequalities faced by individuals with disabilities and makes it more difficult for them to receive the accommodations that they need. I believe Bill HB 2447 mitigates abuse by ensuring that the additional placard issued will expire a month after the person returns from their outer island travel. But, even though we know that this abuse exists, it is paramount that the broader disabled community not be punished for the bad behavior of a few individuals. I would like to suggest having a photo identifier on the placard to mitigate use by individuals other than the person to whom the placard is issued.**

**As a future social worker, I am committed to advocating for the rights and inclusion of individuals with disabilities in all aspects of society. Supporting Bill HB 2447 is a tangible way to uphold these values and ensure that our communities are truly inclusive and accessible to all.**

**I urge the members of the Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee to support Bill HB 2447 to create a more equitable and inclusive environment for individuals with disabilities in Hawai'i.**

**Mahalo nui for considering my testimony.**

**Ke aloha,**

**Stacey Dawn Goodhue-Souza-Kaululaau**

**HB-2447**

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 8:40:06 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lynn Murakami Akatsuka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I **strongly support** HB 2447 passage this legislative session. It is a "common sense" bill and would remedy handicap permittees, especially when traveling alone, to use accessible parking at their departure point or at their destination off island, e.g., mainland, neighbor islands.

This bill allows a permittee to obtain a "disability travel placard" that expires on the last day of the month following the permittee's return date. This would prevent misuse of the placard beyond the expiration date.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in **strong support** of HB 2447.