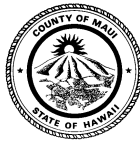


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COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

March 10, 2025

TO: The Honorable Darius K. Kila, Chair
House Committee on Transportation

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alice L. Lee", is written over the printed name and title.

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF MARCH 11, 2025; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB1008,
RELATING TO PARKING**

I **support** this measure to authorize counties to adopt ordinances to enforce the accessible parking requirements for spaces reserved for people with disabilities and electric vehicles.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I **support** this measure for the following reasons:

1. Many people who rely on accessible parking spaces find them occupied by unauthorized vehicles. By granting counties the authority to enforce compliance, we can protect the mobility rights of persons with disabilities and ensure these spaces remain available for legitimate users.
2. As Hawai'i moves toward a more sustainable future, designated charging spaces for electric vehicles are essential infrastructure. Unauthorized use of these spaces by non-electric vehicles undermines the State's carbon neutrality goals and discourages EV adoption.
3. Local governments are better positioned to monitor compliance and address violations of parking requirements. Allowing counties to enact and enforce ordinances tailored to their communities will enhance these requirements' effectiveness.

Thank you for your consideration.



**TESTIMONY OF TINA YAMAKI, PRESIDENT
RETAIL MERCHANTS OF HAWAII
March 11, 2025
SB 1008 RELATING TO PARKING**

Aloha, Chair Kila , and members of the House Committee on Transportation. I am Tina Yamaki, President of the Retail Merchants of Hawaii and I appreciate this opportunity to testify.

The Retail Merchants of Hawaii was founded in 1901 and is a statewide, not for profit trade organization committed to supporting the growth and development of the retail industry in Hawaii. Our membership includes small mom & pop stores, large box stores, resellers, luxury retail, department stores, shopping malls, on-line sellers, local, national, and international retailers, chains, and everyone in between.

While we understand the intent, we **STRONGLY OPPOSE** SB 1008. This measure authorizes the counties to adopt ordinances to enforce the accessible parking space requirements for parking spaces reserved for persons with disabilities and electric vehicles.

According to the Electric Vehicle Association, as of August 2024 the electric passenger vehicles represents 3.3% registered passenger vehicles in the entire state of Hawaii and most of the electric vehicles are on the island of Oahu.

<https://hawaiiev.org/#:~:text=EV%20Adoption%20in%20Hawaii%20%2D%20We're%20over%2035%2C000%20passenger%20EVs!&text=This%20represents%203.3%25%20of%20the,our%2078%2C109%20freight%20vehicle%20fleet>.

While we support new construction that is in the planning phase to potentially have EV charging stations, we do not support mandating them for existing businesses.

On the neighbor islands, the need for charging station is less as many who have EV vehicles have charging stations at their home. Unlike in Honolulu where there is a dense population of condominiums that do not have charging stations in their buildings.

Existing businesses should not be mandated to be the EV charging stations for the county. We believe that the market and customers should be the influencers in business trends and operations and not government mandates. Retailers listen to what their customers want. If there is a significant need, the business will try to oblige. Businesses have put charging stations in those areas where the demand is high. It is our understanding that many of the **EV chargers are not being used very often. It is mainly being used by people looking for a FREE charge, so their personal electric bill is not affected, or they do not want to pay the extra money to install a charging system at their home.**

Mandating EV stalls will be a cost burden to businesses as well also increase the price of living in Hawaii. Installation of EV charging stations is extremely expensive and not as simple as one may think. Existing parking facilities infrastructures are not easily wired for electricity and each existing building and facility vary depending on how stations can be installed. **Engineered plans and permits are needed** due to the infrastructure that will be renovated. If there are signs that are seen from the public street, there is also a need for zoning approval. Regarding installing the chargers, the **asphalt, concrete, landscaping, and other utilities need to be removed and replaced.** If there is not enough power because of the increased use of electronics throughout the stores and shopping malls, **a new transformer is needed** resulting in more engineering plans and permitting. During this time surrounding areas of the parking lot will be closed; traffic will be affected and may discourage people from coming to shop during this time resulting in a loss of revenue. And let us not forget that in some cases the chargers must be set to the side of the stalls if they connect from the rear of the car. This means that the stalls must be 20% wider and one additional stall must be taken away

to accommodate. We must also mention that the **charging stations themselves can be extremely expensive**. Government rebates or tax incentives to help install these chargers are limited.

Installing the EV charging systems is very costly and businesses are not able to absorb the cost. Each stall could cost upwards of \$50k - \$100K. As a result, the cost will be passed on to the retailer via a Common Area Maintenance charge and then the retailer will pass it on to the customers in the form of higher priced goods and services. Thus, contributing more to the excessive cost of living in Hawaii.

Federal ADA laws already mandate specific requirements for accessible parking spaces, including the calculation of the number of stalls and the provision of van-accessible spaces. It is our understanding that federal ADA laws require the number of accessible parking spaces to be calculated separately for each parking structure and **1 of every 6 ADA parking spaces must be ADA van accessible**. Noting that ADA stalls are wider than the average compact stall and the parking access aisle will take up additional parking space. These requirements are essential for promoting accessibility and inclusiveness. Furthermore, **many retailers and shopping centers already exceed the minimum requirements for ADA stalls**, demonstrating a commitment to inclusivity and customer satisfaction.

The government should offer tax incentives or subsidies like other counties around the nation to encourage new businesses to open stand-alone alternative energy charging facilities that offer customers a comfort station like a coffee shop or convenience store while their cars are being charged. In other states and cities, public EV charging stations are subsidized. California alone has invested more than \$223 million in funding for publicly available Level 2 and DC fast chargers throughout their state. Earlier this month The California Energy Commission (CEC) approved a \$1.9 billion plan to expedite the rollout of statewide electric vehicle (EV) charging networks and hydrogen refueling stations.

We keep hearing complaints about how expensive it is to live in Hawaii – skyrocketing food cost, exorbitant prices of goods and services, excessive cost of homes. We must understand that **imposing government mandates on businesses not only increases operating costs but also contributes to the overall higher cost of living in Hawaii**. Who will ultimately pay for these EV stalls at retail locations and shopping malls? The cost to implement this mandate would be passed on to the mall tenants in the form of higher rent or a Common Area Maintenance Charge (CAM), who intern would pass the cost on to the customer. It will be everyone as the cost will be passed on to our kupuna, keiki, family friends and neighbors – the consumer - when they purchase food, clothing, school supplies, healthcare products, electronics and more.

Mahalo again for this opportunity to testify.



SB-1008

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 10:29:32 AM

Testimony for TRN on 3/11/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Climate Protectors Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Climate Protectors Hawaii **SUPPORTS** this measure!

As Hawai‘i moves to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, designated charging spaces for electric vehicles are essential infrastructure. Unauthorized use of these spaces by non-electric vehicles undermines the State’s carbon neutrality goals and discourages EV adoption. Allowing counties to enact and enforce ordinances tailored to their communities will enhance these requirements’ effectiveness.

Please pass this bill!

Mahalo!

Climate Protectors Hawaii (by Ted Bohlen)

SB-1008

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 1:14:34 PM

Testimony for TRN on 3/11/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steve Parsons	Kauai Climate ACTION Coalition, Small Biz Owner	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Trusted Lawmakers!

Kauai Climate Action Coalition strongly supports this bill and also encourages minimum charge rates of 32 amps per stall immediately, 40 amps, 2026 and 50 amps in 2026 and beyond! This supports cleaner air and oceans! Be bold and vote Yes!

Steve Parsons, KCAC Lead

SB-1008

Submitted on: 3/7/2025 5:04:42 PM

Testimony for TRN on 3/11/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Banner Fanene	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

I am chronically physically handicapped and use a handicap parking placard. I support this legislation and ask that you please pass.

Mahalo

SB-1008

Submitted on: 3/8/2025 2:45:57 PM

Testimony for TRN on 3/11/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Geraldine Best	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in SUPPORT of bringing our State Laws re Handicap Stall increases, signage and accesible aisles into compliance with Federal regulations. Our population of disabled and handicapped individuals is growing and so must stalls to help us access vital services along with maintaining some semblance of INDPENENDENCE for our population.

There is much that many of us take for granted as 'normal' human beings with all of our faculties in place. ALL of this changes when dissibilities or handicaps hinder us from performing our normal activities and at the pace we did them before. Let me take you 'on a ride' as a disabled person who needs the 'benefits' of a handicapped stall with adequate access space to be able to 'function' independently within limitations.

First of all having the handicapped/disabled stall close to our businesses lessens the distance we have to travel with walkers, canes and/or wheelchairs along with assistance. Secondly, having the extra space that the access stalls offer is a real blessing. It allows me to open my car door wide; step out of the car holding on to the door for balance and waiting for stability to take hold before proceeding. Then it allows me the space to open another door to get either my walker or wheel chair out, Coupled with this is my adjusting to new methods of maneuvering, lifting, setting up, getting into postion, closing the doors and moving to my destination. The extra space allows this so that I do NOT damage another's property; this is neigh on IMPOSSIBLE in a standard sized parking space. Much movement as a disabled/handicapped person becomes VERY DELIBERATE and SLOWER whereas a normal person, it is second nature.

Implicit in this is my being able to retain/maintain some modicum of independence in my life. Its a difficult transition from INDEPENDENCE to DEPENDENCE. Being able TO DO FOR MYSELF for as long as I can provides me with DIGNITY IN LIVING along with NOT wantung to IMPOSE on others to help when I 'can still do.'

Having more handicapped/disabled stalls available with the proper signage along with more accessible aisles will keep not only myself but other disabled/handicapped persons independent for a longer period of time.

Thanking you for your sensitivity to helping our disabled/handicapped population.

March 10, 2025

SUPPORT FOR SB1008 (RELATING TO PARKING)

Dear Chair Kila, Vice-Chair Grandinetti, and members of the Committee,

My name is Noel Morin. I support SB1008, which *authorizes the counties to adopt ordinances to enforce the accessible parking space requirements for parking spaces reserved for persons with disabilities and electric vehicles.*

Rules that are not enforced are ignored, and we see evidence of this happening. The parking rules for persons with disabilities and electric vehicle charging help to ensure proper access to these critical resources. When they are misused, we can have residents suffer needlessly.

Relying on voluntary compliance alone is inadequate and has resulted in hardships for those needing access to these parking resources. SB1008 will help ensure that designated stalls are properly utilized.

Please pass SB1008.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Noel Morin
Climate, Sustainability, and Resilience Advocate
Hilo, Hawaii

Here's a recent picture from the Kailua-Kona Costco. This truck is parked at the retailer's only EV charging stall.



SB-1008

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 6:55:23 AM

Testimony for TRN on 3/11/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frank Schultz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this initiative.