

**DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA LAWELAWE KUPA
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

ADMINISTRATION

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February 4, 2026

The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
The Honorable Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation

The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs

State Capitol, Conference Room 229
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Inouye, Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante, Vice Chair Chang, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation and Senate Committee on Energy
and Intergovernmental Affairs:

SUBJECT: S.B. No. 2081 - Relating To Motor Vehicles
HEARING: Thursday, February 5, 2026, 3:00 p.m.

The City and County of Honolulu, Department of Customer Services (CSD) **opposes** this bill and appreciates the opportunity to offer comments for your committees' consideration. Pursuant to Section 6-402 of the Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu, CSD Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) administers the motor vehicle registration program for the island of O'ahu. While CSD DMV appreciates the intent of this measure, we have concerns regarding the bill's legal, operational, and public safety implications.

Current law requires all registered owners to participate in changes to a jointly titled vehicle. This safeguard helps ensure accuracy, accountability, and protection for all parties. S.B. No. 2081 would allow unilateral removal of a name from a certificate of registration based on a divorce decree, which presents significant administrative risk.

From an operational perspective, DMV staff are not positioned to interpret or validate court orders beyond their face value. Divorce decrees may not reflect subsequent amendments, appeals, or changes in circumstance, and DMV has no mechanism to confirm whether a decree presented is the most current or legally operative. Requiring staff to rely on such documents places the department in an adjudicatory role beyond its authority and expertise.

There are also enforcement and public safety concerns. Vehicle registration is relied upon by law enforcement and courts to establish responsibility for compliance, citations, and abandoned vehicles. Allowing unilateral changes without full verification risks undermining accountability and enforcement.

For these reasons, the Department of Customer Services respectfully **opposes** S.B. No. 2081 as drafted and urges careful consideration of its operational and public safety impacts.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on S.B. No. 2081.

Sincerely,

for Kimberly M. Hashiro
Director

SB-2081

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 12:49:47 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/5/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauray Walsh	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of this bill.

I have spent over a year working with the County of Hawaii DMV and Department of Finance to remove my name from two vehicles I no longer own (per my Divorce Decree) and no longer have access to.

This exposes me (and others in this situation) to potential legal and financial risk from the divorced party's operation of a motor vehicle.

Please don't make others go through this unnecessary risk of liability arising from motor vehicle abandonment, citations, unmet registration requirements, and damages to property or persons caused by accidents involving a motor vehicle they no longer own or possess.

Mahalo nui loa for your kind consideration.