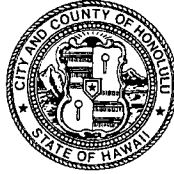


DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICES  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

MISSION MEMORIAL BUILDING  
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KIRK CALDWELL  
MAYOR



SHERI T. KAJIWARA  
DIRECTOR

RANDY M. LEONG  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

February 10, 2020

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair  
The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Public Safety,  
Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs  
The State Senate  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee on Public Safety,  
Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs:

SUBJECT: S.B. No. 2203 - Relating to Vehicles

The City and County of Honolulu, Department of Customer Services (CSD) is **opposed**  
to **S.B. No. 2203**.

The measure relates to the official storage of vehicles and proposes that the registered owner submit one or more signed affidavits, with periods of storage and approximate odometer readings.

CSD currently has a process in place for registered owners to store their vehicles. A Statement of Fact is completed and the license plate, certificate of registration, and emblem are surrendered to the department for recordation. This form does not require notarization, nor is an odometer reading required.

In order to ensure public safety, CSD strongly believes that the requirement of a registered owner turning in their license plate will create greater assurance that the vehicle will remain in storage, and not illegally driven on the public road. Further, we believe that this measure could potentially result in a greater number of abandoned vehicles, due to the fact that vehicles with affixed license plates will be less noticeable to enforcement and blend into the community for a longer period of time.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in opposition of  
S.B. No. 2203.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randy M. Leong".

Randy M. Leong  
Deputy Director

**SB-2203**

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 1:33:07 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2020 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Charles Lotsof	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

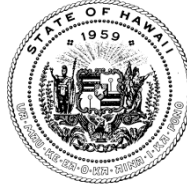
SB 2203 will rectify the present situation where vehicle registrants who have stored their vehicles – often for years – face the dilemma of either paying huge amounts for back registration fees and late payment fees to register their cars and motorcycles or junking them.

This problem has become increasingly serious because the fees must be paid for all years if the vehicle was stored with Hawaii license plates issued since 1991, when the present plates with the rainbow design emerged. Previously, Hawaii plates were replaced with a new design much more frequently. The yellow plates issued in 1969 were replaced in 1976 and those were replaced by the 1981 series with the orange “warrior head” design. License plates are made of adhesive-backed reflective sheeting applied over thin aluminum. Exposed to sunlight, heat and the wake of exhaust fumes, particularly the plates mounted on the rear of the vehicle become darkly tarnished grey and the tape peels in places, often after as little as six years. Regardless of the reason why the present series has not been replaced in twenty years, the effect on owners of vehicles that have not been used for many years has become extremely unfair.

Previously, registrants would fill out the Certificate of Non-Operation form, discontinued undoubtedly out of concern untrue certificates would be accepted at face value. This should no longer be of as much concern, since the data bank at <http://jimspss1.courts.state.hi.us:8080/eCourt> can be searched by license plate number, revealing the history including date, of even routine on-public road events, and since the conversion of the safety check to electronic filing, so that asserted odometer readings may be verified, and the date and mileage of the last attempt to obtain a safety check determined. An example is a Hawaii-Kai woman who was given a Cadillac in excellent condition with only 35,000 miles on its odometer, but needing one repair before it would run, the cost of which was uncertain. The previous owner had used it for only a few years and intended to get it repaired, but left it on his property unmoved for years, where it remained after he passed away. I checked with the City at her request and was told that it would have cost over \$1600 to bring the registration current.

This discussion should, however, not overlook the fact that the whole concept is internally inconsistent. This State is requiring pre-payment. Where payment in advance for a year's registration fees is required, it is fundamentally and logically impossible to have a "late payment penalty."





**TESTIMONY BY:**

JADE T. BUTAY  
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors  
LYNN A.S. ARAKI-REGAN  
DEREK J. CHOW  
ROSS M. HIGASHI  
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

February 11, 2020  
2:00 P.M.  
State Capitol, Room 229

**S.B. 2203**  
**RELATING TO VEHICLES**

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, & Military Affairs  
and Transportation

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The Department of Transportation **opposes** S.B. 2203 which modifies the registration process for stored vehicles with expired license plates.

The bill will assist motor vehicle owners that legitimately are not aware that a motor vehicle must be placed in storage and the appropriate documents that also must be filed in order to not incur future motor vehicle registration (MVR) taxes and fees.

However, the amendment would have the unintended consequence of providing a loophole for those that currently choose to not pay their MVR taxes and fees, fail to possess insurance and do not have their annual vehicle safety checks. These delinquent taxpayers will be afforded a means to be absolved of their MVR back taxes and fees. There is a high likelihood that the past due registration taxes and fees that are owed by these delinquent vehicle owners will not be paid and will be a loss of tax and fee revenues for the state.

An additional concern is that the amendment in the last sentence of Section 1 which reads, “Failure to present the certificate of inspection within thirty days after the date of which the affidavits are presented to the director of finance, or a discrepancy between the affidavits and the certificate of inspection shall result in the cancelation of the current registration and forfeiture of all fees paid for the current registration period”, contradicts §286-26(d), HRS, that requires a valid certificate of inspection be submitted prior to registering any vehicle. It is recommended that §286-26(d), HRS, be amended to remove any conflicting language as follows:

“(d) Every vehicle or moped shall be certified prior to the issuance of a temporary or permanent registration by the director of finance and prior to the transfer of any registration, except as provided for in §249-5.5, HRS; provided

that this requirement shall not apply to a subsequent transfer of registration in a vehicle or moped that carries a current certificate of inspection.”

To accommodate the amendments regarding the calculations of the back taxes to reflect the rates at the time and to allow the registration to be completed without a current safety inspection, that the City and County of Honolulu’s computer system will require programming modifications.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.