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Representative Nicole Lowen, Chair  
Representative Lisa Marten, Vice Chair  
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Thursday, February 4, 2021, 9:00 a.m.  
Via Videoconference

**RE: HB 193 – Relating to Rental Motor Vehicles – In Opposition**

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten and members of the committee:

My name is Robert Muhs, Vice President Government Affairs, Corporate Compliance and Business Ethics for Avis Budget Group. Avis Budget is in opposition to HB 193, which authorizes the counties to regulate the number of rental motor vehicles within their respective jurisdictions.

The number of rental motor vehicles that Avis Budget has on each island is based on demand. It is important to maintain a fleet of vehicles to meet the demands of visitors and local residents.

There are times of the year when vehicles are shipped to other islands to meet the demand. If this passes, this would not be allowed and there will not be enough vehicles for consumers to rent.

For these reasons, we ask that the committee defer this measure. Thank you.

Council Chair  
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair  
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore  
Tasha Kama

Councilmembers  
Gabe Johnson  
Kelly Takaya King  
Michael J. Molina  
Tamara Paltin  
Shane M. Sinenci  
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura




Director of Council Services  
Traci N. T. Fujita, Esq.

**COUNTY COUNCIL**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 S. HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
[www.MauiCounty.us](http://www.MauiCounty.us)

February 2, 2021

TO: Honorable Nicole E. Lowen, Chair  
House Committee of Energy & Environmental Protection

FROM: Alice L. Lee  
Council Chair 

DATE: February 4, 2021

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT OF HB 193, RELATING TO RENTAL MOTOR VEHICLES**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to authorize the counties to regulate the number of rental motor vehicles within their respective jurisdictions.

This measure is in the Maui County Council's Legislative Package; therefore, I offer this testimony on behalf of the Council.

The Maui County Council **SUPPORTS** this measure for the following reasons:

1. Reducing rental cars on the road would contribute to meeting these goals by reducing dependency on petroleum and greenhouse gas emissions generated from for ground-transportation vehicles
2. Over 20,000 rental cars on Maui adversely impact the County's ability to mitigate greenhouse-gas emissions.

For the foregoing reasons, the Maui County Council **SUPPORTS** this measure.

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**HB-193**

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 9:38:11 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/4/2021 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ted Bohlen	Climate Protectors Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

To: The House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection (EEP)

From: Climate Protectors Coalition

Hearing Date: Thursday, February 2, 2021, 9:00 am

**In support of HB193 RELATING TO RENTAL MOTOR VEHICLES**

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, and Energy and Environmental Protection Committee members:

The Climate Protectors Coalition **supports HB193.**

The Climate Protectors Coalition is a group inspired by the Mauna Kea Protectors but focused on reversing the climate crisis. As a tropical island State, Hawaii will be among the first places harmed by the global climate crisis, with more intense storms, loss of protective coral reefs, food insecurity, and rising sea levels destroying our shorelines. We must do all we can to reduce our carbon footprint and become at least carbon neutral as soon as possible.

This bill would reduce greenhouse gas emissions by allowing the counties to regulate the number of rental motor vehicles in their jurisdictions.

The Climate Protectors ask that you pass this bill. Mahalo!

Climate Protectors Coalition (by Ted Bohlen)

**HB-193**

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 5:43:38 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/4/2021 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tamara Paltin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

I am writing in strong support of this bill, I am the county representative who resides in West Maui, our County has seen what a difference it is without the tens of thousands of rental cars on our road and we know we need to do better for our residents and visitors alike. This cannot continue as it is. Daily workers, residents and tourist were stuck in pau hana traffic for hours exiting Lāhainā. There are other options, mass transportation is real, it can be a significant part of the aloha + challenge. We need the ability to control our own destiny especially if the northern terminus of the Lāhainā bypass will be delayed due to funding issues of the rental car surcharge. We need to be able to right size our road capacity and that is something the Counties is closest too and can manage and see much better than the State has to date.

Mahalo,

Tamara Paltin

**HB-193**

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 8:26:17 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/4/2021 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Serene Gunnison	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha! I completely support HB193. I was born and raised on Maui, and it's clear that prior to the pandemic our tourism numbers had a reached an unsustainable level. Traffic and parking problems due to an overwhelming amount of rental cars were a huge source of frustration for people from all corners of the island- our infrastructure was simply not designed to accommodate the amount of cars on the road. I truly believe that limiting the amount of rental cars would help to better the quality of life for residents, preserve our roads, lessen pollution, make driving on the island safer, and even create a better experience for visitors. Mahalo!



**SanHi**

GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES

A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP

DATE: February 3, 2021

TO: Representative Nicole Lowen  
Chair, Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

FROM: Mihoko Ito

RE: **H.B. 193, Relating to Rental Motor Vehicles**  
**Hearing Date: Thursday, February 4, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.**  
**Conference Room: 325**

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Dear Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, and members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection:

We submit this testimony on behalf of Enterprise Holdings, which includes Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Alamo Rent-A-Car, National Car Rental and Enterprise Commute (Van Pool).

Enterprise **opposes** H.B. 193 which would grant authority to the counties to regulate the number of rental motor vehicles within their respective jurisdictions.

We believe that granting such authority would be detrimental to the counties and the State. Prior to the COVID pandemic, the entire rental car fleet in the state of Hawaii constituted only 5% of the total amount of registered vehicles in the State. Since COVID, rental cars make up only 3.5% of the total amount of registered vehicles. On Kauai, rental cars make up 7% of all registered vehicles; on Hawaii Island: 5%; on Maui: 7%; and on Oahu: under 2%. H.B. 193 unfairly targets the rental car industry and paints the industry as the main source of greenhouse gas emissions. But that is just not the case.

In fact, Enterprise's Commute business line promotes carpooling as an option that reduces the number of cars on the roads and helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

H.B. 193, which would likely be used to restrict rental car companies from operating at even their current COVID levels, would also severely restrict the amount of funds that the rental car industry contributes to the Highway Fund. Despite making up less than 4% of the total registered vehicles in the state, the taxes and fees assessed on the rental car industry make up 26% of the total revenue for the State Highway Fund. To add further restrictions to the operational capacity to the rental car industry would negatively impact the State.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill.

**HB-193**

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 8:58:37 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/4/2021 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lawrence S Franco	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I have personally been impacted by the large numbers of rental vehicles on Maui roads. From 2011 to 2019, I lived in my home in Haiku. Trying to get from Haiku to Kahului on the Hana Highway was almost impossible because of so many tourists using that road to get to and from Hana. Traffic clogged around Paia Town causing long delays to get through Paia town. To avoid the traffic jam, I would drive up on Kokomo Road, crossing over on Kaluanui Road, down on Baldwin Avenue, crossing over on Haliimaile Road, on Haleakala Highway, and finally onto Hana Highway to Kahului. I relocated to Wailuku in 2019 to avoid these road trips. Now I rent in Wailuku and rent out my home in Haiku.

In a way, I am reduced my carbon footprint by moving to Wailuku, but I would have rather stayed in my Haiku home if I had a shorter commute from Haiku to Kahului. So I ask the Legislature to support HB 193 to allow Maui County to reduce the total number of rental vehicles on Maui.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Stan Franco

LATE

**HB-193**

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 10:22:39 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/4/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chyna Colorado	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Chyna Colorado and I grew up and currently live in West Maui.

The seemingly unregulated amount of rental cars on our roads are detrimental to the health of our local community and environment. Aside from the inconvenience of being caught in traffic, there is risk during emergency situations when having to get from West Maui to our hospital, increased emissions from vehicles sitting idle in traffic and the reality that our roadway infrastructure does not have the carrying capacity for what seems to be a limitless amount of rental vehicles on top of local vehicles, meaning that traffic can not flow reasonably.

For these reasons I am in support of HB193 relating to rental motor vehicles.



LATE

Testimony of the  
**Hawaii State Association of Counties**

On

**H.B. 193**

**Relating to Rental Motor Vehicles.**

Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Thursday, February 4, 2021, 9:00 a.m.

Room 325

The Hawaii State Association of Counties (HSAC) strongly supports H.B. 193, which authorizes the counties to regulate the number of rental motor vehicles within their respective jurisdictions.

Managing air quality can involve various strategies, many sophisticated and complex that take time to develop and implement. The first step in achieving real and measurable reduction in polluting emissions should be one that can be implemented simply and immediately. This can be achieved by authorizing the counties to regulate the number of rental motor vehicles within the county. This will contribute to mitigating greenhouse gas emissions embodied in the Paris Climate Agreement and implementing the Hawaii State Plan objective of encouraging actions “to maintain or improve aural and ai quality levels to enhance the health and well-being of Hawaii’s people.

H.B. 193 takes that first step.

For these reasons, HSAC supports H.B. 193. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on H.B. No. 193.

LATE

February 3, 2021

Hawaii State Legislature  
House of Representatives  
Thirty-First Legislature, 2021  
Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

RE: Support H.B.193  
Relating to Rental Motor Vehicles

Dear Honorable Rep. Lowen and Rep. Marten and the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify on the matter before your committee. As a West Maui resident traffic congestion is inevitable due to the influx of visitors, residents, natural disasters (fires, landslides), and vehicle/pedestrian accidents. As a West Maui Community Plan Advisory Committee member many meetings and discussions revolved around residents, visitors, traffic, infrastructure, Climate Change and Sea Level Rise.

The West Maui Community Plan guides future growth and development in West Maui over a twenty (20) year time frame. In 2017 there were approximately 25,000 residents. West Maui is the largest employment center in Maui. The daily average population identified in the plan was 63,706 people – which includes 10,287 residents who remain in West Maui during the day, 19,868 workers from West Maui and elsewhere who commute to West Maui, and 33,551 visitors. The plan noted the number of people that live, work, and spend time in West Maui put(s) a strain on roads, transit, infrastructure, housing, and other resources.

The COVID pandemic delayed visitors traveling to Maui and their use of rental cars. Facebook videos and pictures, and news outlets showed approximately 18K parked cars located adjacent to Kahului Airport. Conversely, traffic was less and commute times were bearable.

The Hawaii Tourism Authority's website on Monthly Visitor Statistics Island Highlights for Maui showed for the month of January 2020, "the average daily census grew 1.3 percent to 70,806 visitors." The Hawaii Visitor Statistic released for December 2020 noted, "there were 90,605 visitors on Maui in December versus 275,419 visitors a year ago. For all of 2020, arrivals decreased 74.1 percent to 791,660 visitors."

Sea Level Rise and Climate Change will directly affect Honoapiilani Highway and West Maui. Major portions of Honoapiilani Highway are located adjacent to the shoreline and are prone to flooding and coastal erosion today. The West Maui Community Plan identifies Climate Change and the potential effects to flooding, coastal erosion, and wildfires and the threats to residents, visitors, roads, critical infrastructure and properties.

The West Maui Community Plan's policy's, actions, and goals address limiting/reducing vehicle traffic and promoting rideshare opportunities. Policy 2.2.5 supports increased transit service within and between West Maui's neighborhoods, parks, and commercial areas, and between the Kahului Airport and West Maui hotels. Policy 2.2.10 supports improved resilience of the transportation system to climate change-related hazards such as Seal Level Rise, flooding and wildfires. Goal 2.2 - Action 2.08 identifies opportunities to partner with larger employers such as hotels, to sponsor bus passes, shuttles, ride-share, or other shared ride programs to connect employees to jobs. Action 2.10 provides a frequent direct Bus route between Kahului Airport to West Maui and hotels.

I support H.B. 193 to regulate the number of rental motor vehicles and to reduce greenhouse emissions.

Thank you,

Dawn Hegger-Nordblom

Interim appointee to DOH Environmental Council, past member of the DBEDT, Office of Planning's, Marine and Coastal Zone Advocacy Council member, and West Maui Community Plan Advisory Committee member. Former staff - DLNR – OCCL (Senior Planner), DoD (NEPA Coordinator), HART and HCDA.

LATE



**MAUI**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
VOICE OF BUSINESS

**HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, HOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM 325  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2021 AT 9:00 A.M.**

To The Honorable Nicole E. Lowen, Chair;  
The Honorable Lisa Marten, Vice Chair; and  
Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection,

**OPPOSITION HB193 RELATING TO RENTAL MOTOR VEHICLES**

Aloha, my name is Pamela Tumpap and I am the President of the Maui Chamber of Commerce, in the county most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in terms of our dependence on the visitor industry and corresponding rate of unemployment. I am writing share our opposition to HB193.

While we support SB646 to increase the rental motor vehicle surcharge, this bill feels like a broad overreach for the counties to unilaterally regulate the rental car industry. Given this, we see a potential for a moratorium. Therefore, we cannot support this bill.

Mahalo for your consideration of our testimony and we ask that you defer this bill.

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap  
President

To advance and promote a healthy economic environment for business, advocating for a responsive government and quality education, while preserving Maui's unique community characteristics.

LATE

**HB-193**

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 7:41:26 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/4/2021 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Karen J Comcowich	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This will be so amazing for the individual islands. Establishing how many rentals are on island, will help with Traffic, and encourage more bus rides thereby promoting more bus routes. Win/win for residents.