



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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February 2, 2017

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

House Bill 1108 – Relating to Parking for Disabled Persons

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports House Bill 1108 – Relating to Parking for Disabled Persons. The purpose of this bill is to limit the exemption from payment of parking meter fees to only applicants who present a certificate of disability verifying that they (1) are licensed to drive a motor vehicle and (2) cannot reach or operate parking meters because of a physical disability.

Section 291-55, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), provides that any vehicle displaying a disability parking permit is exempted from payment of parking meter fees for two-and-a-half hours or the maximum time allowed by the meter, whichever is longer. The current exemption goes beyond the original intent of the law, which was to waive the fee for drivers who could not reach or operate parking meters because of a physical disability. The original purpose of the law was not to provide free parking for all disability parking permit holders. An unintended consequence of the current exemption was the creation of an incentive for persons other than the permit holders, such as family members and others, to illegally use the permit to avoid paying parking meter fees.

Therefore, this bill will (1) narrow the exemption from payment of parking meter fees to only licensed drivers who cannot reach or operate a parking meter because of their disability, (2) reduce the illegal use of disability parking permits by persons other than permit holders to avoid parking meter fees, and (3) increase revenue to the State. In addition, qualified applicants will be issued a distinguishing parking permit or decal for display in their vehicles while parked in metered parking spaces to signify their exemption from payment pursuant to section 291-55, HRS.

We request an additional amendment to Section 4 of the bill on page 4, line 12. Suggested language change would be to delete the words "a maximum of" and insert "the first" in front of two-and-a-half hours. This will specify that the meter fee exemption applies to the first two-and-a-half hours or the maximum time the meter allows, whichever is longer. Emphasis on the first two-and-a-half hours will require permit holders to move their vehicles after the allowed time expires.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,


BARBARA FISCHLOWITZ-LEONG
Chairperson
Legislative Committee



FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director

kobayashi2 - Jessi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 7:54 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: blawaiianlvr@icloud.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1108 on Feb 2, 2017 08:30AM

HB1108

Submitted on: 1/31/2017

Testimony for HLT/HUS on Feb 2, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
De MONT R. D. CONNER	Ho'omana Pono, LLC.	Oppose	Yes

Comments: We WHOLLY OPPOSE this bill! To continue this trend of attacking people with disabilities, especially by legislators who may not be deemed to be people with disabilities, is like the men in the United States Congress who want to regulate & control women & what they can or cannot do with their bodies! People with disabilities have a clear disadvantage over life functions as compared to people who have no disability. This bill seeks to add another onerous regulation upon people who have a disability, which could push people with disabilities to completely ignore these laws that specifically target people with disabilities! We believe that this bill may also run afoul of the Americans with Disabilities Act's prohibition against discrimination of people with disabilities. We ask that you kill this bill.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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kobayashi2 - Jessi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 11:02 PM
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Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1108 on Feb 2, 2017 08:30AM

HB1108

Submitted on: 1/31/2017

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ann S Freed	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: This bill is just plain wrong-headed. I am a disabled vet. I suffer neuropathy from damage caused by hip replacement while I was in the military. Sure I can reach the parking meter. BUT, I cannot walk far and a parking meter that is close to where I need to go can make the difference between no pain and a lot of pain. In addition the state and the county are reducing the number of parking spaces available to our disabled citizens. When I worked on staff at the legislature, I was ticketed for parking in handicapped and was told that those spaces were for the public and NOT for staff! With the aging of our population we need MORE parking options not less. Please do not pass this bill.

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