

Hawaii State Towing Association

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March 28, 2013

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance
State Capitol, Room 308
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: **SB1214 SD1 HD1, Relating to Transportation**

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair Johanson and Members of the Committee:

We speak in favor of this bill. The problem of illegal parking (both private and public) is not new to anyone, and any retailer will tell you that available parking is critical to survival. It is well known that vehicles that occupy valuable, and many time scarce parking without doing business may cause financial harm by not allowing paying customers access to said business.

Historically, businesses are required by law to post signs containing specific verbiage regarding parking policies, and consequences to ignoring those rules. Normally, this would involve vehicle removal by a contracted tow company, thereby removing the offending vehicle and opening the private property stall for the business' customers.

Most businesses are reluctant to tow errant vehicles, due to bad publicity, however it is necessary to keep valuable parking available for customers. Towing accomplishes two purposes; 1) it is done at no charge to the business, and, 2) it opens up the stall for other customers to park.

Booting does not accomplish business' objective of opening customer parking. Basically it turns parking lots into revenue sources for the booting company, since a booted car is not removed, it is simply immobilized. Currently, there is no regulation of booting practices and /or companies. This opens the door to **rogue private sector booters to victimize motorists by demanding unregulated and exorbitant cash points for release of their vehicle. This bullying intimidates motorists into paying excessive fines and succumbing to outrageous practices.**

Current tow companies have worked diligently with law makers over the years to arrive at industry standards and fees for services provided. Significant time has been spent establishing corrective action against errant vehicle parking in a fair and reasonable manner. That reputation and history are now at risk with unregulated booting. Are we willing to establish a whole new set of HRS regulations to address booting? If so passage of this bill is a start.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jan Wakayama
President