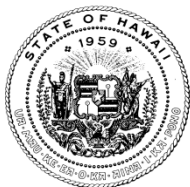


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



Testimony of
FORD N. FUCHIGAMI
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
JADE T. BUTAY
ROSS M. HIGASHI
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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

IN REPLY REFER TO:

February 9, 2015
10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 309

H.B. 562
RELATING TO CROSSWALKS

House Committee on Transportation

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **opposes** H.B. 562 to require a marked crosswalk on all sides of an intersection when defined by two crossing arterial streets.

H.B. 562 has the potential to decrease pedestrian safety and increase congestion at some of these existing intersections. These new crossings will create new pedestrian and vehicle conflicts where there are significant amounts of turning vehicle traffic and/or increase overall intersection delays where "green" time for a signal phase will have to be increased to accommodate pedestrian walk times. The DOT and counties need the flexibility to safely service and balance the mobility of all roadway users.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

919 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 101 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V/TDD) • Fax (808) 586-8129

February 9, 2015

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill 1154 – Relating to Funding for Parking for Disabled Persons

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) strongly supports House Bill 1154 Relating to Funding for Parking for Disabled Persons. The purpose of this bill is to increase the annual vehicle registration fee by \$1.00, which will be deposited into the DCAB accessible parking account within the DCAB Special Fund to cover the costs of administering parking for persons with disabilities.

This bill was passed out of conference committee in 2011, but was deferred on the last day of the session due to a technical flaw in the drafting of the bill. As the Legislature supported the bill in 2011, we ask that you take the same action by supporting this bill.

DCAB is the State agency responsible for the overall coordination and administration of this federally required program. The parking program is managed through a centralized, Internet-based database operated by DCAB staff. DCAB enters into memorandums of agreement with the counties to issue first time and replacement placards on a walk-in basis at the satellite city halls. The renewals are issued through a mail-in process by the DCAB office.

The program now is one hundred percent general funded, except for a small portion of revenue collected for replacement and temporary placards which is retained by the counties. The revenue generated will allow the program to be self-sufficient. This bill would finance the program through a new source of revenue in lieu of the general fund. This bill proposes to create a revenue stream from the motor vehicle registration fee. We believe that this nominal increase will ensure the continued existence of this program in a manner that ensures quality and integrity of the program and not tap into valuable, limited general funds.

Because the placard is transferable to any vehicle and only vehicles can park in accessible parking stalls, this program actually benefits all vehicle owners who potentially can transport a person with a placard. This is a more appropriate financing mechanism than the general fund.

We recommend an effective date of July 1, 2016 to allow the counties to reprogram their computers. We ask that you not make any adjustments to our budget this year. Should this bill pass in 2015, DCAB will submit a supplemental budget request to reduce our general fund appropriation by approximately \$503,000.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

Respectfully submitted,

BARBARA FISCHLOWITZ-LEONG
Chairperson
Legislative Committee

FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director