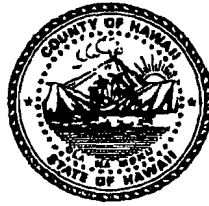


Harry Kim
Mayor



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February 3, 2006

The Honorable Rosalyn Baker
Chair, Committee on Health
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

The Honorable David Ige
Chair, Committee on
Intergovernmental Affairs
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Baker, Chair Ige and Committee Members:

Re: SB 3272

SB 3272 deals with a perennial issue involving the cost of issuing Parking Placards for Persons with Disabilities. I strongly support this measure, but would like to urge an amendment to cover two fiscal years rather than just one.

As you know, the State, operating through the Disability and Communication Access Board has responsibility for the issuance of parking placards. As the most efficient way of accomplishing that task, DCAB has contracted with the various counties to perform this valuable service, but the counties deserve to be reimbursed for their costs. Although everyone agrees that such reimbursement is appropriate, the State, through DCAB, is only funded to reimburse the counties at a 50 percent level.

It is difficult for the counties to continue to absorb this expense, and as a result, serious consideration is being given as to whether to continue this work on behalf of the State. If the counties were to pull out of the program, individuals in need of this service would suffer, and the state would spend far more if it tried to meet the need on its own or contracted with the private sector.

The FY 06-07 proposed Executive Budget provides a \$150,290 increase in the DCAB budget to reimburse the counties at 100%, based on \$10.00 per placard issued. Although this would solve the problem for FY 06-07, we would hope that SB 3272 could be kept alive, to give us a second chance of achieving full funding. In addition, I would like to suggest that an equal amount, \$150,290.00, be added to SB 3272 to cover FY 05-06. This would recognize that the shortage is already in effect, and would provide the counties with appropriate relief for the current fiscal year.

Thank you for considering this testimony.

Aloha,

Harry Kim
MAYOR