BILL062(24)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 409

*BUDGET (BUD)

***BUDGET (BUD) Meeting**

Meeting Date: Aug 19, 2025 @ 09:00 AM

Support: 1

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

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Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
State of Hawaii Office of Veterans Services	Support	Aug 13, 2025 @ 02:09 PM

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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON CITY COUNCIL BILL
RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION

BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON BUDGET

BY

JOHN P. ALAMODIN
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES

AUGUST 13, 2025

Aloha Chair Okimoto, Vice-Chair Nishimoto, and members of the committee:

I am John P. Alamodin, Director, Office of Veterans Services, State of Hawaii, Department of Defense.

The Office of Veterans Services (OVS) appreciates the Council's support of our Veterans and provides written testimony in **SUPPORT** of BILL 062 (2024).

This measure will provide an exemption of the annual fee for the registration of a motor vehicle for a Veteran of the United States Armed Forces who is 65 years of age or older. The qualified Veteran will be exempted from the payment of the $20 annual registration fee for one motor vehicle per year.

The Office of Veterans' Services (OVS) is the principal state office responsible for the development and management of policies and programs related to veterans, their dependents, and/or survivors. The OVS acts as a liaison between the Governor and

veterans' organizations and also between the Department of Veterans Affairs and individual veterans. Our objectives are to assist veterans in obtaining State and federal entitlements, to supply the latest information on veterans' issues and to provide advice and support to veterans making the transition back into civilian life.

Based on 2022 estimates, there are approximately 71,239 veterans aged 18 and older living in Honolulu County. Of these, around 15,367 veterans are between the ages of 65 and 74, while approximately 15,724 are 75 or older.

This measure is commensurate with most states, such as Texas, Florida, California, Pennsylvania, and others, that offer some type of exemption or waiver for motor vehicle registration fees for veterans. When we consider that many Veterans 65 years and older in Hawaii face significant financial challenges due to the high cost of living, limited income, and other factors, it's crucial for them and their families to be aware of available resources and support programs to help navigate these challenges. The fee expemption will significantly demonstrate appreciation for veterans' willingness to serve and sacrifice for their country. Older Veterans may face financial challenges due to disabilities incurred during service. This exemption will alleviate a small but meaningful financial burden. Many states offer a range of benefits to veterans, including property tax exemptions, income tax breaks, and employment preferences. Motor vehicle fee exemptions fit within this framework of providing comprehensive support to those who have served.

If passed, this bill will provide meaningful support to Veterans—particularly those with limited financial resources—by improving their access to personal transportation and enhancing their ability to live independently.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

John P. Alamodin, john.p.alamodin@hawaii.gov