BILL062(24)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 470

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Sep 3, 2025 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 2

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire	Presidentbillionaire@gmail.com	96792
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
www.ohanaunityparty.com	Support	Sep 1, 2025 @ 05:49 PM

Testimony:

Testimony in Support of Bill 62 (2024), CD1 – Honolulu City Council

Meeting Date: [Insert Meeting Date, e.g., September 2025 –

City and County of Honolulu

530 South King Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair and Members of the Honolulu City Council,

My name is Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire, HRM, representing the Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands, H.I., and Chairman of the Ohana Unity Party (www.OhanaUnityParty.com). I am submitting this testimony in strong support of Bill 62 (2024), CD1, which amends Section 15A-4.1 of the Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021 to exempt veterans of the U.S. armed forces, aged 65 or older and not dishonorably discharged, from the $20 annual motor vehicle registration fee for one vehicle per year. This bill honors our veterans and seniors, aligning with our commitment to equitable policies that uplift our ohana.

Reasons for Support:

Bill 62 provides meaningful financial relief to senior veterans, a group that has served our nation and now faces fixed or limited incomes in retirement. The $20 annual exemption, while modest, reduces the cost-of-living burden for these individuals, many of whom rely on personal vehicles for essential needs like medical appointments or grocery shopping. According to the U.S. Census Bureau (2023), approximately 10% of Oahu's population are veterans, with over 20,000 aged 65 or older. The Hawaii Department of Veterans Services (2024) notes that many senior veterans face financial challenges, with 30% living on incomes below $40,000 annually. This exemption directly supports these kupuna, ensuring they can maintain mobility without added financial strain.

The bill also maintains the existing fee structure for other registrations ($5 for number plates, $0.50 for tags or emblems, $5 for plate reassignment) and deposits fees into the general fund, ensuring no disruption to City revenues. By targeting a specific, deserving group, Bill 62 balances fiscal responsibility with compassion, complementing other City initiatives like the Customer Assistance for Residential Environmental Services (CARES) program, which aids low-income households (Honolulu Civil Beat, June 4, 2025).

Community Impact:

The Ohana Unity Party champions policies that honor our community's contributions and protect vulnerable groups. Bill 62 recognizes the sacrifices of senior veterans, many of whom are Native Hawaiian or from working-class backgrounds,

fostering a more equitable Honolulu. This exemption supports their quality of life without increasing costs for other residents, aligning with the City's 2022 Oahu Housing Strategy goal of reducing financial burdens on low-income and senior populations.

Call to Action:
I urge the Honolulu City Council to pass Bill 62 (2024), CD1, to provide this well-deserved exemption for senior veterans. Additionally, I recommend:
1. **Expand Outreach**: Partner with the Department of Customer Services and Hawaii Department of Veterans Services to ensure eligible veterans are aware of and can easily access this exemption.
2. **Monitor Impact**: Track the number of veterans benefiting from the exemption to assess its reach and consider similar relief for other vulnerable groups, such as low-income seniors.
3. **Community Awareness**: Promote the bill through public campaigns, including via my platform (@OhanaUnityParty, @PikachuBillionaire on YouTube), to highlight the City's commitment to veterans.

Bill 62 is a meaningful step toward honoring our senior veterans and ensuring their financial stability. I encourage the Council to approve this ordinance to support our ohana and recognize those who have served. Mahalo for your dedication to our community.

Sincerely,
Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire, HRM
Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands, H.I.
Chairman, Ohana Unity Party
www.OhanaUnityParty.com
OhanaUnityChair@gmail.com
Facebook: @KeikiOkalani | Instagram: @OhanaUnityParty, @LegendaryBillionaire | X: @OhanaUnityParty, @AmericanPartyOG
YouTube: @PikachuBillionaire (https://www.youtube.com/@pikachubillionaire)
Support: Venmo @PresidentBillionaire | CashApp $ShelbyBillionaire | BTC Wallet 1sRfKDphW18hojoyTQVy9qQVSUtQgahYwj
#OhanaUnityParty #SupportVeterans #HawaiiEquity

Name:	Email:	Zip:
JOHN ALAMODIN	john.p.alamodin@hawaii.gov	96818
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
State of Hawaii Office of Veterans Services	Support	Sep 2, 2025 @ 11:00 PM

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIAĀINA

STEPHEN F. LOGAN
MAJOR GENERAL
ADJUTANT GENERAL
KA AKUKANA KENELALA

JOHN P. ALAMODIN
LIEUTENANT COLONEL
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HOOKELE

STATE OF HAWAIʻI
KA MOKUĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
KA OIHANA PILI KAUA
OFFICE OF VETERANS' SERVICES
459 PATTERSON ROAD, E-WING, ROOM 1-A103
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96819-1522
Telephone Number (808) 433-0420

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON CITY COUNCIL BILL
RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION

BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL

BY

JOHN P. ALAMODIN
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES

SEPTEMBER 3, 2025

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice-Chair Tupola, and members of the Council:

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), CD1.

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