# BILL062(24)
# Testimony

**MISC. COMM. 479**

*BUDGET (BUD)

***BUDGET (BUD)  Meeting**

Meeting Date: Sep 23, 2025 @ 09:00 AM

Support: 2

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

| Name: | Email: | Zip: |
|---|---|---|
| Edward Fujioka | puunui@msn.com | 96818-2792 |
| Representing: | Position: | Submitted: |
| Self | Support | Sep 17, 2025 @ 08:27 PM |

Testimony:

I am full support of Bill 62. I support the $20 registration fee capped at 1 privately owned vehicle per licensed driver for those 65 and older.

| Name: | Email: | Zip: |
|---|---|---|
| John Alamodin | john.p.alamodin@hawaii.gov | 96819 |
| Representing: | Position: | Submitted: |
| HAWAI`I OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES | Support | Sep 22, 2025 @ 12:43 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

SEPTEMBER 23, 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), 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.

A statistical study by the Department of Veterans Affairs, which is included in this testimony, would show that from 2015 to a projected 2045 the Hawai`i State Veterans

population age 65 years and older will decrease during the referenced period. In 2015, the number of Veterans 65 years and older totaled 51,535. By year end 2025, the total is projected to be at 41,692. Lastly by 2045, the total projected is 27,725. Related to the VA statistical analysis, an American Community Survey(ACS) study covering 2019-23 noted the number of Veterans 65 years and older in Honolulu County totaled 12,947 with 7.10% living with incomes at or under the Federal Povery Level.

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.

In previous hearings, there was testimony provided that noted potential loss of income to the County if this measure becomes law. A statistical study by the Department of Veterans Affairs, which is included in this testimony, would show that from 2015 to a projected 2045 the Hawai`i State Veterans population age 65 years and older will decrease during the referenced period. In 2015, the number of Veterans 65 years and older totaled 51,535. By year end 2025, the total is projected to be at 41,692. Lastly by 2045, the total projected is 27,725. Related to the VA statistical analysis, an American Community Survey(ACS) study covering 2019-23 noted the number of Veterans 65 years and older in Honolulu County totaled 12,947 with 7.10% living with incomes at or under the Federal Povery Level. A loss of revenue to the County will occur, although depending on the statistical data the impact is debatable and will vary. For the Committee’s consideration, the point of emphasis in this testimony to support this measure is advocacy for an aging group within the Veteran population that would get needed relief, especially for those with fragile financial circumstances. In addition, this measure will help support this population’s ability to sustain independence and be self-relient with their own transportation resulting in less burden on County public transportation and other similar resources.

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

VA | U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

# Hawaii

| Population Change | Hawaii | National |
|---|---|---|
| Veteran Population 2015 | 113K | 20.8M |
| Veteran Population 2045 | 97K | 12M |
| Annual Percentage Change | -0.52% | -1.82% |

| Hawaii | | 9/30/2015 | 9/30/2020 | 9/30/2025 | 9/30/2030 | 9/30/2035 | 9/30/2040 | 9/30/2045 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Age | Less than 40 | 20,965 | 25,853 | 26,890 | 27,480 | 27,895 | 28,158 | 28,232 |
| | 40-64 | 40,885 | 38,297 | 37,298 | 38,254 | 40,174 | 42,306 | 43,142 |
| | 65+ | 51,535 | 45,404 | 41,692 | 37,185 | 32,315 | 27,725 | 25,570 |

| Hawaii | | 9/30/2015 | 9/30/2020 | 9/30/2025 | 9/30/2030 | 9/30/2035 | 9/30/2040 | 9/30/2045 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gender | Male | 102,030 | 97,188 | 92,992 | 89,629 | 86,790 | 84,417 | 83,083 |
| | Female | 11,356 | 12,365 | 12,888 | 13,290 | 13,595 | 13,772 | 13,861 |

| Hawaii | | 9/30/2015 | 9/30/2020 | 9/30/2025 | 9/30/2030 | 9/30/2035 | 9/30/2040 | 9/30/2045 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Period of Service | WWII | 5,317 | 1,658 | 338 | 43 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| | Korea | 8,469 | 4,444 | 1,761 | 475 | 85 | 10 | 1 |
| | Vietnam | 38,138 | 31,738 | 25,232 | 18,337 | 11,561 | 5,943 | 2,340 |
| | Gulf War | 44,270 | 56,697 | 62,625 | 61,613 | 59,000 | 55,582 | 50,272 |

Note: The totals for Period of Service do not add to the totals for the entire Veteran Population because peace time veterans were excluded

| Note: The total for Pe | | 9/30/2015 | 9/30/2020 | 9/30/2025 | 9/30/2030 | 9/30/2035 | 9/30/2040 | 9/30/2045 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Race | White, Not Hispanic | 41,170 | 41,463 | 40,800 | 40,455 | 40,802 | 41,337 | 42,191 |
| | Minority | 72,215 | 68,090 | 65,081 | 62,464 | 59,583 | 56,851 | 54,754 |

Note: Minorities are all races/ethnicities except non-Hispanic White Veterans

