

Testimony in support of a bill for an ordinance 10-2015

Related to Car-Sharing

Committee on Budget Hearing
March 4, 2015

RECEIVED
CITY CLERK
C & C OF HONOLULU
2015 MAR -3 PM 12:24

As a twelve year resident of Waikiki, downtown worker, avid bike and transit advocate, daily bus rider and active member of my community, I wish to pledge my full support for Bill 10.

Citizens in Honolulu are demanding better transit options

Personal cars sit idle 95% of the time but expenses for cars are paid for 100% time ownership. One way to cut the exorbitant cost of living in Honolulu is to make car use accessible to residents via car-share. Car-share, along with our rail and bus network, dedicated bike lane network and improved sidewalk system allows families to reduce cars owned or get rid of obsolete cars completely. This is how modern urban centers operate today and this is what citizens in urban areas are demanding. I should know. I have used car-share services in DC, San Francisco and Seattle. The urban core of Honolulu is where the future of Honolulu is, so it is important to plan for it now.

"Free parking" is not free

All of us subsidize street parking and free city parking lots, whether we own a car or not. As you on this committee know, public parking and public roads are all subsidized by general tax funds to defray the true costs of public parking, street repairs, street lighting, drainage, street cleaning, security and cleanup of water and air pollution caused by cars. So, regardless of what numerous drivers on Oahu believe, free parking is never free. Residents do not "own" curbside street parking spots in their neighborhood or any other public property, nor does anyone have an automatic "right" to free parking for their car on public land.

I don't own a car, I support car-share and I want to be able to access a car-share car on my public streets in my neighborhood, when I need a car. I want car-share services to be able to use public streets and public parking spots; streets and spots that I already subsidize as a taxpayer.

Make the Cost of Living More Affordable for Regular Working People

Do your part and help working residents cut living costs. More and more Honolulu citizens are finding how much money they save annually by ditching car ownership, moving to urban walkable areas and improving their quality of life. I am one of them. Car-share gives all of us mobility options, saves thousands of dollars in car costs a year, and keeps shared cars in efficient use in service in our neighborhoods.

Car-share services have just as much of a right to use my public streets to provide me with a needed service as drivers have to park their personal vehicles on those same public streets. We all pay for streets and public parking whether we own a car or not, so we all have a say in how we want them to be used.

Jeff Merz
343 Hobron Lane #3101
Waikiki 96815
808-258-7802