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Intermediate Court of Appeals
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NO. CAAP-24-0000665

IN THE INTERMEDIATE COURT OF APPEALS
OF THE STATE OF HAWAI'I

WILLIAM J. COWARD, Appellant-Appellant,
v.
DIRECTOR OF DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICES,
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU, Appellee-Appellee

APPEAL FROM THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIRST CIRCUIT
HONOLULU DIVISION
(CASE NO. 1DRC-24-0000708)

SUMMARY DISPOSITION ORDER

(By: Leonard, Presiding Judge, Hiraoka and Wadsworth, JJ.)

William J. **Coward** asked the **City** and County of Honolulu's Department of Customer Services (**DCS**) for duplicate certificates of ownership for five motor vehicles. The City denied his requests. Representing himself, he filed a notice of appeal under Hawaii Revised Statutes (**HRS**) § 286-58. The notice of appeal described only a 1989 Cadillac and its vehicle identification number (**VIN**). The District Court of the First Circuit, Honolulu Division, granted the appeal for the Cadillac.¹

Coward moved for reconsideration. He wanted duplicate ownership certificates for all five cars, not just the Cadillac. The district court orally denied the motion.² Coward appealed. We temporarily remanded for entry of a written order denying reconsideration. The **Order Denying Appellant William J. Coward's**

¹ The Honorable Alvin K. Nishimura presided.

² The Honorable Miriah E. Holden presided.

Motion for Reconsideration or New Trial was entered on April 27, 2026.

Denial of a motion for reconsideration is reviewed for abuse of discretion. Amfac, Inc. v. Waikiki Beachcomber Inv. Co., 74 Haw. 85, 114, 839 P.2d 10, 26 (1992).

HRS § 286-58 (2020) allows an appeal from a DCS decision. The notice of appeal must contain "a description of the motor vehicle involved, with the serial or motor number or both, if available." Coward's notice of appeal provided the description and VIN for the Cadillac; it did not describe or provide the VIN for any other vehicle. The district court thus acted within its discretion by denying Coward's motion for reconsideration.

The April 27, 2026 *Order Denying Appellant William J. Coward's Motion for Reconsideration or New Trial* is affirmed.

DATED: Honolulu, Hawai'i, May 11, 2026.

On the briefs:

William J. Coward,
self-represented
Appellant-Appellant.

/s/ Katherine G. Leonard
Presiding Judge

/s/ Keith K. Hiraoka
Associate Judge

Dana M.O. Viola,
Corporation Counsel,
Gabriele V. Provenza,
Deputy Corporation Counsel
for Appellee-Appellee.

/s/ Clyde J. Wadsworth
Associate Judge