

**House Transportation, Housing & Local Government**

**03/12/2025 01:30 PM**

**HB25-1281 Title Register & Drive Kei Vehicles**

**Typed Text of Testimony Submitted**

<b>Name, Position, Representing</b>	<b>Typed Text of Testimony</b>
<p>Austin Baskett  For  themselves</p>	<p>Dear Committee Members.</p> <p>I very much appreciate you and your colleagues putting forward HB25-1281 concerning the titling and registration of Kei Vehicles. My wife and I imported a small truck from Japan (commonly known as a Kei Truck) in October 2023 with the understanding that it would not be an issue to register it in the state of Colorado. We have a home in Salida and we were looking forward to using this vehicle to run errands around town.</p> <p>We imported the truck legally through the port of Tacoma and had all of the federal and national inspections done prior to shipping it to Salida. According to federal law, there is no issue with this vehicle. It is considered a classic vehicle, is over 25 years old and is exempt from federal highway emissions and safety standards.</p> <p>Unfortunately, when we went to register the vehicle in Chaffee County we learned that the Colorado DMV currently has no classification for Kei Trucks and that they fall into a "grey area" with no statute for the DMV to follow. As a result, the DMV has determined that it is "not a motor vehicle", which as you can imagine, is quite frustrating. Since the DMV has no statute classifying it as a vehicle, it cannot be currently registered or titled in the state of Colorado which seems absolutely ludicrous to us given that the federally, it is classified as a vehicle and that we had to have all of the appropriate documents (ie. title, bill of sale, etc...) to import it. The contradiction of State vs. Federal law with regards to the treatment of this vehicle is very frustrating and we are hopeful that HB25-1281 passes so that we can utilize this vehicle as intended and get on with our lives.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and swift work on this issue. We appreciate your vote to pass the statute as written.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Austin &amp; Joanna Baskett</p>

<p>Michael Matuszak For themselves</p>	<p>Kei trucks are an incredibly practical and efficient solution for many Coloradans, especially those in rural areas, small businesses, and outdoor enthusiasts. Their compact size makes them perfect for navigating narrow mountain roads, tight urban spaces, and off-road trails, while their affordability and low maintenance costs are a huge advantage for small-scale farmers and entrepreneurs. Additionally, their fuel efficiency aligns with Colorado's commitment to sustainability and reducing emissions. Allowing Kei trucks in Colorado would not only provide a versatile transportation option but also support local economies and promote environmentally friendly practices. They're a perfect fit for the diverse needs of our state.</p>
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