

Bill 89 (2020), FD1, CD1
Testimony

MISC. COM. 198



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HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, March 17, 2021 - 10:00 a.m. – City Council Chamber

Ulupono Initiative supports Bill 89 (2020), FD1 CD1

Dear Chair Waters and Members of the Council:

My name is Micah Munekata, and I am the Director of Government Affairs at Ulupono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-focused impact investment firm that strives to improve quality of life throughout the islands by helping our communities become more resilient and self-sufficient through locally produced food; renewable energy and clean transportation; and better management of freshwater and waste.

Ulupono Initiative supports Bill 89 (2020) FD1 CD1, amending Chapter 2, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 1990, to introduce the City Payment Card as a means to pay fares, fees, and charges for the transportation services, and amending Chapter 13 to amend the fare structure for the City transit system.

Bill 89 improves current fare policy and structure by creating a fair, simpler, and more equitable system. Fare capping, over the use of monthly passes, allows community members who depend on transit but may not consistently have the means to pay for the pass upfront to access the same frequent ridership discounts as others. The updated fare table is welcome in streamlining program administration and implementation. We continue to be excited to see the inclusion of the new low-income rate category, although we do continue to worry about the budgetary limit to that particular rate category and that rate category alone. We commend the Rate Commission for its thoughtful report that helps the community to understand the legislation and its impacts; we also support their work to develop important elements in rate deliberations such as rate goals, principles, etc. Parts of these exist in Bill 89 but remain informal at this time.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

***Note:** Ulupono Initiative values this measure before the Council today and appreciates the opportunity to testify; however, we are unable to attend in person due to concerns around COVID-19. Thank you for your understanding.

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i

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