

Bill 87 (2020) Testimony

MISC. COM. 258

BUD

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 8:56 AM
Subject: Budget Testimony

Written Testimony

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Meeting Date	03-03-2021
Council/PH Committee	Budget
Agenda Item	Bills 87 and 89
Your position on the matter	Support
Representing	Organization
Organization	Honolulu Rate Commission
Written Testimony	
Testimony Attachment	
Accept Terms and Agreement 1	

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Donald K. Sakamoto

President, Citizens for a Fair Americans with Disabilities Act Ride (CFADAR)

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Phone: (808) 291-1740

To: Councilmember Calvin Say, Budget Chair

cc: City Council Budget Committee Members
3rd floor Council Chambers Room
Honolulu Hale
530 S. King Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Wednesday, April 21, 2021 9:00 AM

Subject: BILL087(20), PROPOSED CD1 - CS2 (1)

Aloha, Chair Say and Council Members:

My name is Donald Sakamoto and I advocate for riders of TheBus and The Handi-Van. Today, I want to focus my concerns on the proposed Bill 87 CD1 - CS2 (1), which would increase the Handi-Van single ride fee from \$2.00 to \$2.25 effective July 1, 2022. Many riders are people with disabilities who are unable or are afraid to speak for themselves. As you know I am part of a group named "CFADAR." Though we do not represent all the ridership, we do represent a good cross-section of people with different disabilities, economic backgrounds, etc., from Kaimuki/Kapahulu to Waianae, through central O`ahu, and around the North shore to the east side including Kaneohe where I live.

Originally organized in 2002, we are officially known as Citizens for a Fair Americans with Disabilities Act Ride (CFADAR™). Since 2006, CFADAR has presented concerns that need to be addressed and resolved: Late pick-ups and drop-offs for medical treatments such as: chemo, dialysis, and other treatments; crucial medical appointments. More importantly are riders who are employed. It is unacceptable and inexcusable that they wait in harsh weather conditions, feeling tired or ill, and not having a place to sit without shelter. For many waiting for the van can be torturous.

Regarding Bill 87 (2020), PROPOSED CD1 - CS2 (1) we do not agree that this is the appropriate time to increase the Handi-Van fares for these following reasons:

1. The city should explore other resources and ways to generate additional funds before any increases are proposed. Research the feasibility of the City's Department of Transportation Services implementing the TriMed program that the State of Oregon has used for number of years. It utilizes county, state, and federal funding to subsidize their paratransit ride services, especially with the high volumes of Medicaid clients.

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2. The City's Department of Transportation must implement Bill 68 (2017) RELATING TO SPECIAL TRANSIT SERVICE implementation of the pilot taxi voucher program, which would greatly help curb the demand on TheHandi-Van, etc.
3. The City's Department of Transportation Services needs to apply or seek federal grants to subsidize the budget during the COVID-19 pandemic, economic crisis and perhaps for the next coming years.
4. In previous Honolulu Rate Commission Meetings, the City's Department of Transportation introduced a low fare CAP rate for those riders on fix income however, there is no mention of this in the current proposed Bill 87 (2020) CD1 - CS2. Also, in Bill 89 (2020) there was a CAP of 1.5 million allocated for low-income riders of TheBus.
5. At the Honolulu Rate Commission Meeting of fall 2020, discussion was brought-up regarding tier levels of future fare increases for Handi-Van riders however, no proposed decisions were made.
6. A customer satisfaction survey done by Department of Transportation Services is way overdue. It was advised in the city's auditors report of March 2016 and follow-up report of January 2020. The need to determine the demographics of how many SSI riders are on low fixed income, how many of them can afford fee increases, etc. can benefit not only the administration and the Honolulu Rate Commission, but the council in determining proposed fee hikes, etc.

In addition, the Honolulu City's Department of Transportation, Rate Commission and the previous City Council members as well as the present Council members did not include a cost rate structure fee increase for program agencies that was strongly suggested in the city's auditor's report of March 2016 and in the auditor's updated report of January 2020. These agency rides pose the issue that many of the riders impact the services during the early morning and mid to late afternoons traffic.

I appreciate the opportunity to come before you to share my views and again strongly disagree on raising any type of fees at this time without first doing the mention points raised above. I hope we can all work together for better Handi-Van services for the disabled citizens of Oahu and consider a future fee hike at later time.

Famous quote by Benjamin Franklin: "If you fail to prepare, then you will prepare to fail."

Most Respectfully,

Donald K. Sakamoto, President
CFADAR



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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April 21, 2021

The Honorable Calvin Say, Committee Chair
and Members of the Budget Committee
Honolulu City Council
City and County of Honolulu
530 South King Street
Room 203
Honolulu, HI 96813

Regarding: Bill 87 (2020) CD1 – Relating to Public Transit

Dear Chair Say and Members of the Budget Committee:

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports Bill 87 (2020) CD1. Bill 87 (2020) CD1 would raise the paratransit single ride fare by 25 cents from \$2.00 to \$2.25 effective July 1, 2022. The paratransit fare has not been raised since 2001.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) allows the paratransit fare to be up to twice the undiscounted, full fare charged for an adult single ride fare on the fixed route system. Bill 87 (2020) CD1 would result in a paratransit fare that is still significantly lower than what is allowable under the ADA. However, DCAB supports the establishment of a low income fare or subsidy for low income riders who would be harmed by even a nominal fare increase.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Bill 87 (2020) CD1.

Respectfully submitted,

KIRBY L. SHAW
Executive Director

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 9:22 PM
Subject: Budget Testimony

Written Testimony

Name Joy Nakata-Muranaka
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Meeting Date 04-21-2021
Council/PH Committee Budget
Agenda Item Bill 87 CD1 CD2
Your position on the matter Oppose
Representing Self
Organization
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