

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

650 SOUTH KING STREET, 3RD FLOOR
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
Phone: (808) 768-8305 • Fax: (808) 768-4730 • Internet: www.honolulu.gov

RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR



J. ROGER MORTON
DIRECTOR

JON Y. NOUCHI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

May 5, 2021

The Honorable Tommy Waters
Chair and Presiding Officer
and Members
Honolulu City Council
530 South King Street, Room 202
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Waters and Councilmembers:

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

The Department of Transportation Services (DTS) supports Bill 87, CD1 that implements the recommendation of the Rate Commission to raise the fare for a single ride on TheHandi-Van to \$2.25 from \$2.00.

As we have previously testified, the current single ride fare on TheHandi-Van is \$2.00; this fare was set in 2001 and has not been raised in nearly twenty years. In comparison, the average cost of providing a trip on TheHandi-Van is \$49.18, with a farebox recovery ratio of approximately 4.3%. Prior to the decrease in rides and ridership due to COVID-19, about 1.2 million rides were provided annually on TheHandi-Van. This reasonable fare increase translates to increased revenue of \$300,000 for this level of ridership.

Additionally, the DTS has the following comments on the proposed FD1 amendments (OCS2021-0400/4/28/2021 10:03AM) submitted by Councilmember Tupola regarding the inclusion of the Extremely Low Income (ELI) program in Section 2. The DTS is not opposed to the concept of a low-income fare for TheHandi-Van riders, however we do not believe the proposed amendments are the best way to address the various complexities involved with providing para-transit services in a fair, equitable and lawful manner.

The DTS respectfully urges the Council's favorable consideration to approve Bill 87, CD1 in its current form. Finally, the DTS requests some time to analyze the fiscal and operational impacts an ELI program would have on TheHandi-Van system.

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony. Should you have any questions, please call me at 768-8303.

Very truly yours,



J. Roger Morton
Director

APPROVED:



Michael D. Formby
Managing Director