

BILL053(22)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 501

BUDGET

BUDGET Meeting

Meeting Date: Nov 16, 2022 @ 09:00 AM

Support: 2

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 1

Name: Bryan Mick	Email: bryan.mick@doh.hawaii.gov	Zip: 96813
Representing: Disability and Communication Access Board	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 14, 2022 @ 03:23 PM
Name: Donald Sakamoto	Email: cylonone@aol.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Citizens for a Fair ADA Ride (CFADAR)	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Nov 15, 2022 @ 02:00 PM
Testimony: Comment		
Name: Zhizi Xiong	Email: alohadivinedesign@gmail.com	Zip: 96817
Representing: CARES Community Advocacy Research Education Services	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 16, 2022 @ 08:37 AM
Testimony: Dear Chair, Vice Chair & Members of the Committee, I'm Zhizi Xiong and I'm testifying in strong support of Bill 53 on behalf of CARES. The amendments for these parameters to determine how paratransit fare programs are to be implemented should be strongly supported. The amendments require applicants who have low incomes to go through a fair eligibility process & review to then be able to get a reduced fare. The low income applicants have 2 options. They can either present a letter from the Social Security benefits program to the Dept of Transportation Services or for those who meet the eligibility criteria from the US Dept of Housing & Urban Development guidelines, they may apply through the Department of Community Services. The verification of income eligibility from the 2 federal agencies, SSA & US Dept of Housing & Urban Development will then approve the individual for a reduced paratransit fare. We'd like to commend the author for making an amendment that is a incredibly considerate of the disabled community because many of the disabled people also have extremely low incomes. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.		



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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November 16, 2022

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

Regarding: Bill 53 (2022) – Relating to Public Transit

Dear Chair Say and Members of the Honolulu City Council Budget Committee:

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports Bill 53 (2022).

DCAB has adopted Guiding Principles on Public Transit Fixed Route Bus and Paratransit Services. Principle 3 states “[s]ubsidies should be provided to those who qualify as extremely low income.”

Bill 53 (2022) amends the Revised Ordinances of Honolulu (ROH) 13-2.10 by adding a second method by which an applicant may qualify for the low income bus fare by providing a letter from the Social Security Administration showing eligibility to receive Supplemental Security Income. This will reduce the number of applications the Department of Community Services currently reviews to determine whether an applicant meets the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development guidelines for extremely low income households within the City for the applicable family size.

In addition, Bill 53 (2022) amends ROH 13-4.5 by establishing a new low income fare category for paratransit passengers who meet either of the two methods applicants may use to qualify for the low income bus fare. DCAB has advocated for a low income paratransit fare category for several years. This allows the paratransit standard fare to be raised in the future without harming those with limited fixed incomes who would be forced to reduce their number of trips.

Both of these proposed amendments align with our Guiding Principles.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Bill 53 (2022).

Respectfully submitted,

KIRBY L. SHAW
Executive Director