HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL

KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

ORDINANCE _____

BILL 42 (2025)

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE

RELATING TO TAXICABS.

BE IT ORDAINED by the People of the City and County of Honolulu:

SECTION 1. Purpose. The purpose of this ordinance is to address the regulation of taxicabs and taxicab companies.

SECTION 2. Section 36-1.1, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021 ("Purpose–Scope–Definitions") is amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

"(b) For the purposes of this article, the following definitions apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

Cruising. The movement or standing of a taxicab on a public highway or at a public place, for the purpose of searching for or soliciting a passenger for hire.

Digital Dispatch Taxicab Company. A taxicab company that offers or utilizes a digital network to provide a central dispatching service for multiple taxicabs.

Digital Network. Any online-enabled application, software, website, or system that enables the arrangement of rides with taxicab drivers.

Director. The director of customer services or the director's duly authorized subordinates.

Passenger for Hire. A person transported in a taxicab for consideration.

Property for Hire. Property transported in a taxicab for consideration.

Road Taxi Stand. A space set aside on a public street or city-controlled facility by the council for the exclusive use of taxicabs.

Shared-Ride Taxicab. A taxicab used in transporting passengers to and from unrelated locations, which locations may be other than terminals or fixed stands.

Taxicab. A vehicle that is manufactured to carry no more than eight passengers (excluding the driver), operated by a taxicab driver, that is:

(1) Used in the movement of passengers for hire on the public highways;

(2) Directed to a destination by the passenger for hire or on the passenger's behalf; and

(3) Operated on call or demand.

Taxicab Company. Any person or entity [~~which~~] that rents or leases taxicabs to certified taxi drivers to be used or operated as taxicabs[~~,~~] or [~~which~~] that operates as a central dispatch service for one or more taxicabs.

Taxicab Driver. A person duly licensed as a driver of a motor vehicle who has obtained a valid taxicab driver's certificate from the department or has been certified by a taxicab company.

Total Stoppage. The complete halting of bus transportation service furnished by a public bus system, resulting from a labor strike or a disaster, or both.

Waiting Time. The period during which a taxicab is standing at the direction of or on behalf of a passenger for hire and the time consumed due to traffic delays while transporting a passenger for hire, which time is automatically computed by the taximeter when the speed of the vehicle falls at or below the speed at which the fare computed using the basic distance rate is equal to the fare computed using the basic time rate."

SECTION 3. Section 36-1.9, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021 ("Director to establish rate of fare and baggage charge–Exceptions–Conditions–Receipt required upon request"), is amended by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

"(c) The fares or charges established pursuant to this section [~~shall be~~] are subject to the following exceptions or conditions, whichever the case may be:

(1) *When fares or charges permitted.* Fares are only applicable [~~to the use of the taxicab when actually occupied by or standing at the direction of the passenger for hire or when occupied by parcels or baggage transported for hire; provided that no other charges shall be made for the use of a taxicab for hire except as provided herein.~~] when engaged at the direction or on behalf of the passenger.

(2) *Posting of fares and charges.* The schedule of fares and charges established pursuant to this section [~~shall~~] must be printed in bold type letters, not less than 3/16 of an inch in height, posted within 12 inches of the taximeters and readily visible to all passengers for hire.

(3) *Exceptions and conditions for use of fares and charges lower than those established.* A taxicab driver or taxicab company may adjust the meters on a taxicab so that a lower fare or charge may be assessed than those established pursuant to this section; provided[~~,~~] that if a taxicab driver or taxicab company owns or operates more than one taxicab, all of the taxicabs [~~shall~~] must have their taximeters adjusted to the lower fare or charge; and provided further[~~,~~] that such lower fare or charge [~~shall~~] must be posted as prescribed in subdivision (2). The taxicab driver or taxicab company may waive the baggage charges established pursuant to this section.

(4) This section shall not be construed to preclude a taxicab driver or taxicab company from charging a passenger less than the amount due indicated by the taximeter.

(5) The fares for shared-ride taxicab service [~~shall~~] must be established by the tariff filed under § 36-1.20, rather than the fares and charges established pursuant to this section.

(6) Notwithstanding any provision in this article to the contrary, any digital dispatch taxicab company is exempt from rate-setting regulations set forth in this chapter."

SECTION 4. Chapter 36, Article 1, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021 ("Taxicabs"), is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated by the Revisor of Ordinances and to read as follows:

"**§ 36-1. Taxes and Third-Party Fees.**

A taxicab driver or a taxicab company may pass on to a passenger the taxes and nonrefundable third-party fees charged to the taxicab driver or the taxicab company for transporting the passenger from the place of pickup to the destination or destinations."

SECTION 5. Ordinance material to be repealed is bracketed and stricken. New material is underscored. When revising, compiling, or printing this ordinance for

inclusion in the Revised Ordinances of Honolulu, the Revisor of Ordinances need not include the brackets, the material that has been bracketed and stricken, or the underscoring.

SECTION 6. This ordinance takes effect upon its approval.

INTRODUCED BY:

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DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

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APR 30 2025
Honolulu, Hawai'i

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Councilmembers

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

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Deputy Corporation Counsel

APPROVED this _____day of _____, 20 ___.

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RICK BLANGIARDI, Mayor
City and County of Honolulu