

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA LAWELAWE 'ŌHUA
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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August 19, 2025

The Honorable Val A. Okimoto
Chair of the Committee on Budget
and Members
Honolulu City Council
530 South King Street, Room 202
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Okimoto and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: Bill 54 (2025), Relating to Public Transit

Bill 54 (2025), Relating to Public Transit, inadvertently deletes the fares for Medicare Cardholders. The Department of Transportation Services (DTS) respectfully requests that the measure be amended to include Medicare Cardholders under the new category for Reduced Fares.

With respect to changes in the fare for the Personal Care Assistant (PCA), the free fare for a PCA for paratransit travel (TheHandi-Van) is mandated by the federal law and is covered under Section 15B-4.5(e), Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021, which provides:

"A personal care attendant shall pay no fare at any time when accompanying an ADA paratransit eligible individual and performing services as the individual's personal care attendant."

The free fare, however, is not required under federal law for fixed route service (TheBus and Skyline). Accordingly, it is DTS' intent to remove the PCA fare from the fixed route fares because, as a practical matter, where a PCA on paratransit service can be controlled because the system requires registration of the PCA and the PCA must be included in the paratransit pickup request, there are no such controls or verification for TheBus or Skyline.

Mahalo for your continued support for the City's transportation initiatives. I respectfully urge the bill's passage on second reading.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Roger Morton".

J. Roger Morton
Director

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael D. Formby".

Michael D. Formby, Managing Director
Office of the Managing Director

DEPT. COM. 639 BUD