REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE, TRANSPORTATION & TECHNOLOGY

Voting Members:
Radiant Cordero, Chair; Val A. Okimoto, Vice Chair;
Tyler Dos Santos-Tam, Andria Tupola, Matt Weyer

Committee Meeting Held
September 24, 2025

Honorable Tommy Waters
Chair, City Council
City and County of Honolulu

Mr. Chair:

Your Committee on Infrastructure, Transportation & Technology, which considered Bill 42 (2025) entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO TAXICABS,"

introduced on April 30, 2025 and which passed first reading at the May 14, 2025 Council meeting, reports as follows:

The purpose of the Bill is to address the regulation of taxicabs and taxicab companies.

Your Committee, at its meeting on May 28, 2025, postponed action on the Bill to allow the Committee more time to work on addressing issues and concerns raised by stakeholders.

At your Committee's meeting on September 24, 2025, the Director of Customer Services offered comments on the Bill and requested that further amendments be made to the Bill as stated in Departmental Communication 731 (2025), dated September 23, 2025.

Your Committee considered and approved a CD1 version (OCS2025-0781/9/25/2025 8:01 AM) that makes the following amendments:

A. Removes SECTION 2 of the bill, which proposed new definitions for "Digital Dispatch Taxicab Company" and "Digital Network."

ADOPTED ON OCT 1 2025

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B. Adds a new SECTION 2, which amends ROH § 36-1.8 to reference the State department and branch that is currently responsible for monitoring taximeters and make other conforming amendments.

C. In SECTION 3 of the bill, amends the entirety of ROH § 36-1.9 (rather than just subsection (c)) to:

1. Remove provisions related to the establishment of maximum fares, baggage charges, and fuel surcharges by the Director of Customer Services and make other conforming amendments.

2. Establish that fares or charges are permitted when the taxicab is hired (as opposed to when it is actually occupied or when engaged at the direction or on behalf of the passenger).

3. Add language ensuring that all taxicab drivers and taxicab companies are exempt from fares and charges established by the Director of Customer Services and set forth in ROH Chapter 36, Article 1 (rather than exempting only digital dispatch taxicab companies from the rate-setting regulations of ROH Chapter 36).

4. Add a new subsection (f) to require the Director of Customer Services to submit to the Council recommendations regarding the repeal, modification, or extension of Chapter 36, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021.

D. Adds a new SECTION 4 of the bill to amend ROH Section 36-1.10, which pertains to "jitney" operations, to remove a reference to the baggage charge established by the Director of Customer Services (see Amendment C.1, above). Renumbers subsequent SECTIONS.

E. Makes miscellaneous technical and nonsubstantive amendments.

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Your Committee on Infrastructure, Transportation & Technology is in accord with the intent and purpose of Bill 42 (2025), as amended herein, and recommends that it pass second reading, be scheduled for public hearing, and be referred back to Committee in the form attached hereto as Bill 42 (2025), CD1. (Ayes: Cordero, Dos Santos-Tam, Okimoto, Tupola, Weyer – 5; Noes: None.)

Respectfully submitted,

Committee Chair

HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL
Ke Kanihela o ke Kalana o Honolulu
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

ADOPTED ON OCT 1 2025

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 317

HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL

KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

ORDINANCE _____

BILL **42 (2025), CD1**

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 36-1.8, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021, is amended to read as follows:

"**§ 36-1.8 Taximeters.**

(a) *Installation.* Each taxicab [~~shall~~] must be equipped with a digital electronic taximeter calibrated to charge the [~~current~~] fare [~~established pursuant to § 36-1.9~~] posted pursuant to § 36-1.9(b) and which [~~shall meet or exceed~~] meets or exceeds the requirements of subsection (b).

(b) *Technical requirements of taximeters.* The specifications, tolerances, and other technical requirements relating [~~thereto shall~~] to taximeters must be as established by the State [~~division of weights and measures.~~] department of agriculture, measurement standards branch. The operation, visibility, lighting, and inspection [~~will~~] must conform to all applicable State laws or regulations.

(c) *Inspection.* No driver, owner, or operator of a taxicab or taxi stand [~~shall~~] may use or cause to be used a taxicab for purposes of hire before the taximeter, installed therein, has been inspected for accuracy in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.

(d) *Current* [~~*rates.*~~] *fares.* No driver, owner, or operator of a taxicab or taxi stand shall use or cause to be used for purposes of hire, a taxicab installed with a taximeter not reflecting the current [~~rates.~~] fares posted pursuant to § 36-1.9(b)."

SECTION 3. Section 36-1.9, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021, is amended to read as follows:

"**§ 36-1.9 [~~Director to establish rate of fare and baggage charge—Exceptions—Conditions—Receipt required upon request.~~] Fares and charges.**

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE

[~~(a) The maximum fares and baggage charges that may be charged to passengers of taxicabs shall be established by the director. The fares and charges shall be established by rules adopted by the director. The fares and charges shall be reviewed by the director at least once every two years following January 1, 1992 and shall be amended, as necessary, to reflect changes in the private transportation component of the consumer price index for Honolulu, as determined by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; provided that the director may amend the fares and charges more frequently than once every two years if deemed necessary.~~

~~(b) In addition to the fares and charges established in subsection (a), the director may establish a fuel surcharge for taxicab operators to be charged to passengers. Every six months, the director shall determine whether a fuel surcharge should be established based on any increase in the base amount and the average fuel prices. Any fuel surcharge shall be established by rules adopted by the director pursuant to HRS Chapter 91.~~

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

~~(1)~~](a) *When fares or charges permitted*. Fares and charges 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.~~] hired.

[~~(2)~~](b) *Posting of fares and charges*. [~~The~~] An accurate 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 have their taximeters adjusted to the lower fare or charge; and provided further, that such lower fare or charge shall 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)~~](c) The fares for shared-ride taxicab service shall be established by the tariff filed under § 36-1.20[~~, rather than the fares and charges established pursuant to this section~~].

(d) Taxicab drivers and taxicab companies are exempt from any fares and charges established by the director and set forth in this article.

[~~(d)~~](e) *Receipt required upon request.*

(1) At the end of the taxicab trip, the operator shall, upon request, provide at least one passenger with a receipt that records the following information: origin, destination, time, and date of the taxicab service; all fares and charges; the name of the taxicab operator, printed or written, so that it is legible; the printed name and telephone number of the taxicab company; a telephone number, as designated by the director, to call for the filing of complaints; and any other information deemed necessary by the director.

(2) All taxicab receipt forms shall be approved by the director before use by a taxicab company.

(f) No later than five years after the effective date of this ordinance, the director shall submit to the council recommendations regarding the repeal, modification, or extension of Chapter 36, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021."

SECTION 4. Section 36-1.10, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021, is amended to read as follows:

"**§ 36-1.10 Special operations.**

Notwithstanding any provision contained herein to the contrary, any taxicab operator may operate the taxicab operator's taxicab as a jitney during a public bus service total stoppage subject to the following:

(1) The fare per passenger [~~shall~~] may be no more than twice the current per-trip adult city bus fare;

(2) The taxicab operator may operate the taxicab as a jitney only along existing public bus service routes; provided that the director is authorized to add new jitney routes in addition to the routes mentioned in this section whenever the director has sufficient evidence that the public, using the public transit service, [~~is desirous of~~] desires having such additional jitney routes for their convenience;

(3) There [~~shall~~] must be prominently displayed on the taxicab being operated as a jitney a sign reading "jitney" and indicating the fare per passenger, which [~~shall~~] must be facing outward so it [~~shall~~] will be visible by potential passengers and such signs [~~shall~~] will be furnished by the director;

(4) The loading or unloading of passengers [shall] may take place only at established public bus service bus stops along the routes prescribed herein; and

(5) A baggage fee may be assessed during jitney operations according to the [~~fee for~~] current baggage [~~established pursuant to § 36-1.9.~~] charge posted pursuant to § 36-1.9(b)."

SECTION 5. 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 6. 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. In SECTION 2 of this ordinance, the Revisor of Ordinances shall, pursuant to the Revisor's authority under Section 1-16.3(b)(1), Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021, replace the phrase "effective date of this ordinance" with the actual date on which the ordinance takes effect.

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SECTION 7. This ordinance takes effect upon its approval.

INTRODUCED BY:

Matt Weyer

Andria Tupola

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

April 30, 2025
Honolulu, Hawai‘i

Councilmembers

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

Deputy Corporation Counsel

APPROVED this _____day of _____, 20 ___.

RICK BLANGIARDI, Mayor
City and County of Honolulu

Report Title:
Taxicab; Taxicab Company; Department of Customer Services ("CSD"); Rates, Fares and Charges; Report

Description:
Repeals various fares and charges provisions that apply to taxicab companies and drivers. Allows fares and charges to apply when a taxicab is hired. Allows taxicab drivers and taxicab companies to pass on taxes and third-party fees to passengers. Requires a report from the CSD Director.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.