BILL042(25)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 498

*INFRASTRUCTURE, TRANSPORTATION & TECHNOLOGY (ITT)

***INFRASTRUCTURE, TRANSPORTATION & TECHNOLOGY (ITT) Meeting**

Meeting Date: Sep 24, 2025 @ 09:00 AM

Support: 5

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Mohammed Akbar	akbarhiusa@hotmail.com	96816
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Sep 23, 2025 @ 08:43 AM
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Ted Kefalas	maliah@grassrootinstitute.org	96813
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Grassroot Institute of Hawaii	Support	Sep 23, 2025 @ 10:25 AM
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Max Sword	mswordconsulting@aol.com	96823
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Sep 23, 2025 @ 03:30 PM
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Ibrahim Bostanci	bostancizafer@gmail.com	96815
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Sep 23, 2025 @ 05:32 PM
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Dale Evans	dale@charleystaxi.com	96814-2577
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Charley's Taxi Radio Dispatch Corp	Support	Sep 23, 2025 @ 08:04 PM

Mohammed F. Akbar

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September 23, 2025

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF BILL 42 (2025)

Measure Title:
RELATING TO TAXICABS.
Summary:
Date Introduced:
Apr 30, 2025
Introduced By:
MATT WEYER, ANDRIA TUPOLA
Committee:
INFRASTRUCTURE, TRANSPORTATION & TECHNOLOGY(ITT)

Aloha Committee on Infrastructure, Transportation & Technology.

Honolulu City Council

530 South King Street Rm. 100

Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Bill 42 (2025) Committee Hearing: September 24, 2025, Wednesday at 9:00 a.m.

My name Mohammed F. Akbar, I am a small business and independent taxicab owner / operator, affiliated with Charley's Taxi. I take good care of our customers safely, reliably and honestly.

I own my car (SUV), work full-time and at least 60 hours a week to cover my expenses and support my family of four.

Our clients and vendors are required Luxury car to provide service to high-end VIP customers and require to upgrade and replace cars every 5 to 6 years to provide the highest industry standard and that is costly to buy a car and maintain.

I SUPPORT BILL 42:

1) I support bill 42 (2025) to free digital dispatch taxi company from rate regulation under ROH 36-1 (9), so that taxi drivers can finally compete fairly on a level playing field with TNC competitors not subject to any price controls.

2) The laws and regulations on all for-hire drivers picking up passengers should be the same, fair and equal.

3) TNC drivers have less licensing, insurance, and price controls — to give them more competitive advantages — over us taxi drivers.

4) I want to be treated like other businesses who can pass on the business costs. It is unfair to prohibit us from charging for airport pick-up fees, Diamond Head Lookout and Nuuanu Pali and Moanalua Garden parking fees when our customers request to be taken there.

Thanks in advance and appreciate for reading my testimony and hope to see that you all will agree with my fellow taxicab drivers and me and pass the bill 42 (2025)

Mahalo Nui Loa,

(Mohammed F. Akbar)

GRASSROOT INSTITUTE OF HAWAII

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Removing barriers to Hawaii's prosperity

Sept. 24, 2025, 9 a.m.
Honolulu Hale

To: Honolulu City Council Committee on Infrastructure, Transportation and Technology
Radiant Cordero, Chair
Val Okimoto, Vice Chair

From: Grassroot Institute of Hawaii
Ted Kefalas, Director of Strategic Campaigns

RE: Bill 42 (2025) — RELATING TO TAXICABS

Aloha Chair Cordero, Vice Chair Okimoto and other members of the Committee,

The Grassroot Institute of Hawaii **supports** Bill 42 (2025), which would exempt digital dispatch taxicabs from the city's rate-setting regulations. Grassroot especially supports the CD1 draft of the bill that would exempt all taxicab companies from the rate-setting regulations.

Current rules dictate that anyone operating a taxicab cannot charge more than the price prescribed by the Honolulu Director of Customer Services. These maximum rates often do not keep up with changes in inflation or the general cost of doing business in Hawaii. For example, the maximum rates did not change between 2013 and 2023, whereas inflation increased by roughly 30% nationwide.[1]

Additionally, Bill 42 (2025) would place taxicabs on the same playing field as transportation network companies such as Uber and Lyft, which are not subject to the same city price controls as taxicabs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Ted Kefalas
Director of Strategic Campaigns
Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

[1] "CPI Inflation Calculator," U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, accessed May 27, 2025.

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September 24, 2025

Honolulu City Council
Committee on Planning, Infrastructure & Transportation
Councilwoman Radiant Cordero, Chair

RE: Bill 42 (2025) CD1 – RELATING TO TAXICABS

Aloha Councilmembers,

My name is Max Sword here in support of Bill 42 (2025) Relating to Taxicabs.

Currently the taxicabs are being run and operated with one hand tied behind it's back, compared to TNCs, operating as Uber and Lyft.

A couple of examples. Rates for taxis are set at a single maximum rate, while TNC's rates constantly fluctuates, at times by the second. Surge Pricing, anyone?

The other example is that taxis cannot exceed the city's minimum rate regardless of vehicle classification, while TNCs can set their rates according to class: Compact, Mid-size, SUV, Luxury, etc.

These are but a couple of examples why this bill needs to be supported, it's time to put taxis on an even playing field as the TNCs.

I urge your support and mahalo for allowing me to submit my testimony.

Ibrahim Zafer Bostanci

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September 23, 2025

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Aloha Committee on Infrastructure, Transportation & Technology.

Honolulu City Council

530 South King Street Rm. 100

Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Bill 42 (2025) Committee Hearing: September 24, 2025, Wednesday at 9:00 a.m.

My name Ibrahim Zafer Bostanci, I am a small business and independent taxicab owner / operator, affiliated with Charley's Taxi. I take good care of our customers safely, reliably and honestly.

I own my car (SUV), work full-time and at least 60 hours a week to cover my expenses and support my family of four.

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Thanks in advance and appreciate for reading my testimony and hope to see that you all will agree with my fellow taxicab drivers and me and pass the bill 42 (2025)

Mahalo Nui Loa,

(Ibrahim Zafer Bostanci)

Honorable Honolulu City Council, Transportation Committee Members
We strongly advocate passage of Bill 42 (25) to help Level the playing field although not entirely as TNCs Uber and Lyft coming 11 years ago enjoy cost and operational advantages — TNC drivers don't have to buy insurance and TNCs enjoy a statewide airport TNC cartel.

In the past 80 years (1945) the taxicab rates have never ever been set according to taxi business costs.

The Council repealed the taxi medallion system 80 years ago on Dec 6, 1945 - no trade off for city's price fixing fares.

In 1961, the Legislature did enact the 1-8 passenger Operating Authority for taxicabs. But the city sets only one rate for any taxicab despite the type and cost. This means that higher grade cars are only used if old, used, and dirty.

Please vote Yes on Bill 42 (25). Mahalo!

Dale Evans, President
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