SUMMARY OF PROPOSED COMMITTEE DRAFT:

Bill 54 (2025), CD1
RELATING TO PUBLIC TRANSIT.

The PROPOSED CD2 makes the following amendments:

A. In SECTION 2 of the bill, which amends ROH § 15B-2.1, amends the bill as follows:

1. Amends subsection (a) by amending the new defined term to "individuals with very low income" (instead of "individuals with extremely low income").

2. Amends subsection (b) by:

   a. Adding an "adult (non-resident)" and "senior citizen (Hawaii residents only)" passenger category to the fare structure table;

   b. Adding Medicare cardholders to the list of individuals eligible for reduced fares;

   c. Changing the term "individuals with extremely low income" to "individuals with very low income" in the list of individuals eligible for reduced fares; and

   d. Clarifying which passengers are eligible for the reduced fare for different rides and passes.

3. Deletes subsection (k), which removes personal care attendants from the exception to paying a fare for the city bus system and the city rail system. (As noted in D-639 (2025), this does not affect free fares for personal care attendants utilizing paratransit travel (TheHandi-Van), which is mandated by federal laws and covered under ROH § 15B-4.5(e).) Re-letters subsequent subsections.

4. Amends now proposed subsection (l) (formerly subsection (n) in the CD1) to provide that the Department of Transportation Services (rather than the Director of Transportation Services) may establish a special single ride fare for transportation to and from the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport.

5. Amends proposed subsection (m), to provide that the Department of Transportation Services (rather than the Director of Transportation Services) may establish a special events single ride fare for certain special events. Clarifies that the special events single ride fare will be cash only and will be sold at $6.25 for all passenger categories under subsection (b).

B. In SECTION 3 of the bill, which amends ROH § 15B-2.10, amends the bill as follows:

1. Amends the title of ROH § 15B-2.10 to read as follows:

   "**§ 15B-2.10 Transit fares for individuals with very low incomes.**"

2. Adds a new proposed subsection (b), to allow individuals who present a voucher issued by the Department of Community Services ("DCS") for benefits under the federal Section 8 housing program to be eligible for the reduced transit fare. Re-letters subsequent subsections.

3. Amends now subsection (c), to expand eligibility for certain reduced transit fares to "individuals with very low income" (from "individuals with extremely low income").

C. In SECTION 4 of the bill, which amends subsection (b) of ROH § 15B-4.5, amends the bill as follows:

1. Amends subdivision (2), to expand eligibility for certain reduced paratransit fares to "individuals with very low income" (from "individuals with extremely low income").

2. Adds a new proposed paragraph (B) of subdivision (2), to allow individuals who present a voucher issued by the DCS for benefits under the federal Section 8 housing program to be eligible for the reduced paratransit fare. Re-letters subsequent paragraphs.

D. Makes miscellaneous technical and nonsubstantive amendments.

HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL

KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

ORDINANCE _____

BILL **54 (2025), CD2**

PROPOSED

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE

RELATING TO PUBLIC TRANSIT.

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

SECTION 1. Purpose. The purpose of this ordinance is to simplify, update, and amend certain sections of Chapter 15B, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021 ("Public Transit"), as they pertain to the fare structure for the Multimodal Municipal Transportation System.

SECTION 2. Section 15B-2.1, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021, is amended to read as follows:

"**§ 15B-2.1 Fare structure.**

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

Adult. Any person over the age of 17 years who does not qualify as a "youth."

Child. Any person five years of age or younger who is accompanied by a fare-paying passenger, a city employee, or an employee of the transit management services contractor. If not so accompanied, any person five years of age or younger is a "youth" for the purposes of this section.

Individuals with Very Low Income. Any individual who qualifies for a fare plan under § 15B-2.10.

Medicare Cardholder. Any person to whom a Medicare card has been issued, pursuant to Title II or Title XVIII of the Social Security Act, 42 USC § 401, et seq. and 42 USC § 1395, et seq.

Paratransit Eligibility ID Holder. A person with a card issued under § 15B-4.3.

Person with a Disability **[~~*under § 15B-2.2*~~].** A person with a temporary or permanent disability qualified for a fare plan under § 15B-2.2.

Senior Citizen. A person 65 years of age or older with a programmed city payment card issued in accordance with § 15B-2.3.

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE

Service Day. The hours of operation of the city bus system and city rail system from 12:01 a.m. of one day to 2:59 a.m. the following day.

Single Ride Fare. The required payment for a ride on the city bus system or the city rail system.

Single Ride Fare - Special Event. The required payment for a ride on the city bus system or the city rail system for a special event as designated by the director.

Student Transit Pass. A card, including a smart card, ticket, voucher, or similar document, distributed as approved by the department, that entitles a student holding the pass to ride on the city bus and rail system for the duration specified on the pass.

Youth. A person six through 17 years of age, subject to the presentation of a valid identification card establishing the age of the person. "Youth" includes high school students 18 and 19 years of age with a valid high school identification card establishing the age of the student and the student's current enrollment, but excludes college, university, and vocational training students if over the age of 17.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this article, the following fares apply to every passenger using the city bus system and the city rail system, and every passenger riding the city bus system and the city rail system [~~shall~~] must pay the applicable fare set forth in this table:

[~~FARE STRUCTURE TABLE~~

	~~***Cash***~~	~~***Fares Paid Using City Payment Card (CPC) Only***~~				~~***Special Event***~~
~~**Passenger Category**~~	~~**Single Ride Fare**~~	~~***Single Ride with 2.5-Hour Capped Fare with Free Transfers Between Bus, Rail, and Paratransit Systems***~~	~~***Daily Pass or Maximum Capped Fare***~~	~~***Monthly Pass or Maximum Capped Fare***~~	~~***Annual Pass***~~	~~***Single Ride Fare – Special Event***~~
~~Adult~~	~~$3~~	~~$3~~	~~$7.50~~	~~$80~~	~~$880~~	~~$6.25~~
~~Youth~~	~~$1.50~~	~~$1.50 with programmed CPC~~	~~$3.75 with programmed CPC~~	~~$40 with programmed CPC~~	~~$440 with programmed CPC~~	~~$6.25~~

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	~~*Cash*~~	~~*Fares Paid Using City Payment Card (CPC) Only*~~				~~*Special Event*~~
~~**Passenger Category**~~	~~**Single Ride Fare**~~	~~*Single Ride with 2.5-Hour Capped Fare with Free Transfers Between Bus, Rail, and Paratransit Systems*~~	~~*Daily Pass or Maximum Capped Fare*~~	~~*Monthly Pass or Maximum Capped Fare*~~	~~*Annual Pass*~~	~~*Single Ride Fare – Special Event*~~
~~Child~~	~~$0~~	~~$0~~	~~$0~~	~~$0~~	~~$0~~	~~$0~~
~~Senior Citizen (Non-Hawaii Resident)~~	~~$1.25 with valid CPC ID~~	~~$1.25 with programmed CPC~~	~~$3 with programmed CPC~~	~~Not applicable~~	~~Not applicable~~	~~$6.25~~
~~Senior Citizen (Hawaii Resident)~~	~~$1.25 with valid CPC ID~~	~~$1.25 with programmed CPC~~	~~$3 with programmed CPC~~	~~$20 with programmed CPC~~	~~$45 with programmed CPC~~	~~$6.25~~
~~Person with a Disability Under § 15B-2.2 (Non-Hawaii Resident)~~	~~$1.25 with valid CPC ID~~	~~$1.25 with programmed CPC~~	~~$3 with programmed CPC~~	~~Not applicable~~	~~Not applicable~~	~~$6.25~~
~~Person with a Disability Under § 15B-2.2 (Hawaii Resident)~~	~~$1.25 with valid CPC ID~~	~~$1.25 with programmed CPC~~	~~$3 with programmed CPC~~	~~$20 with programmed CPC~~	~~$45 with programmed CPC~~	~~$6.25~~
~~Medicare Cardholders (Non-Hawaii Resident)~~	~~$1.25 with valid Medicare Card ID~~	~~$1.25 with programmed CPC~~	~~$3 with programmed CPC~~	~~Not applicable~~	~~Not applicable~~	~~$6.25~~
~~Medicare Cardholders (Hawaii Resident)~~	~~$1.25 with valid Medicare Card ID~~	~~$1.25 with programmed CPC~~	~~$3 with programmed CPC~~	~~$20 with programmed CPC~~	~~$45 with programmed CPC~~	~~$6.25~~
~~Paratransit Eligibility ID Holders~~	~~$1.25 with valid paratransit ID~~	~~$1.25 with programmed CPC~~	~~$2 with programmed CPC~~	~~$6 with programmed CPC~~	~~$35 with programmed CPC~~	~~$6.25~~
~~Personal Care Attendant (PCA)~~	~~$0 when performing PCA service~~	~~Not applicable~~	~~Not applicable~~	~~Not applicable~~	~~Not applicable~~	~~$6.25~~]

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FARE STRUCTURE TABLE

	Cash	Fares Paid Using City Payment Card (CPC) Only			
Passenger Category	**Single Ride**	**2-Hour Pass**	**24-Hour Pass**	**Monthly Pass**	**Annual Pass**
Fixed Route (TheBus and Skyline)	Cash Fare Only (No Transfer)	Capped Fare or Prepaid Pass	Capped Fare or Prepaid Pass	Capped Fare or Prepaid Pass	Prepaid Pass
	Bus Only	HOLO Card (CPC)	HOLO Card (CPC)	HOLO Card (CPC)	HOLO Card (CPC)
Adult	$3.25	$3	$7.50	$90	$990
Adult (Non-resident)	$4.25	$4	$10	$100	$1,100
Youth	$1.75	$1.50	$3.75	$45	$495
Senior Citizen (Hawaii Residents Only)	$1.50	$1.25	$3	$20	$45
Reduced Fare	$1.75	$1.50	$3.75	Hawaii Residents Only $20	Hawaii Residents Only $50

The following passengers are eligible for the reduced fare for a single ride, the two-hour pass, and the 24-hour pass: senior citizens who are not Hawaii residents, persons with a disability, paratransit eligibility ID holders, Medicare cardholders, and individuals with very low income. The following passengers are eligible for the reduced fare for the monthly pass and the annual pass: persons with a disability, paratransit eligibility ID holders, Medicare cardholders, and individuals with very low income; provided that the passenger is a resident of Hawaii.

(c) The department may establish a program for the use of transit passes issued to individuals upon payment of the designated fare, which may be used for the duration specified on the pass. The passes will be issued at various locations to be selected and advertised by the department. The department, through the department of budget and fiscal services, may enter into contractual arrangements with any parties, private or public, when [~~such~~] the arrangements are deemed to be in the public interest for the sale and issuance of transit passes. The council must be informed within 30 days of the city's entering into [~~any such~~] the arrangement.

(d) The department may allow a person to board a city transit system vehicle or enter a designated paid fare area without being charged a fare as part of a promotional offer or package made available by the city.

(e) In the event of a strike or work stoppage that shuts down any portion of the multimodal municipal transportation system, the department may make fare adjustments as in the judgment of the department are warranted by the particular circumstances.

(f) The department may establish a program for the issuance of college and university student, faculty, and staff transit passes. [~~Such~~] The passes may be issued to students, faculty, and staff by a college or university and will be subject to terms to be agreed upon between the college or university and the department. Students, faculty, and staff to whom the passes are issued [~~shall~~] must pay the fare negotiated rather than a fare established under subsection (b).

(g) The department may establish a program for the issuance of student transit passes in accordance with § 15B-2.13. The passes may be issued to students by a participating State department of education school and will be subject to terms to be agreed upon between the department and the State department of education. The fare for students to whom the transit passes are issued must be paid by the State department of education at the fare negotiated rather than a fare established under subsection (b).

(h) The department may establish a program for the issuance of free transit passes for city employees.

(i) A child riding a city transit system vehicle for free may not occupy a seat to the exclusion of another passenger.

(j) The department may establish a trainer pass program for persons who train persons with disabilities to use the city transit system.

[~~(k) A personal care attendant accompanying a paratransit eligibility ID holder may not pay a fare when performing the service.~~

~~(l)~~](k) The department may establish special reduced term passes for periods of seven days or less at fares provided in this subsection rather than a fare established under subsection (b). Reduced term passes will be valid for riders of all ages. The three-day pass [~~shall~~] will be sold at $20, and the seven-day pass will be

sold at [~~$35.~~] $45. The three-day pass will be valid for 72 hours after the initial tap on a fare validator. The seven-day pass will be valid for 168 hours after the initial tap on a fare validator.

(l) The department may establish a special single ride fare for transportation to and from the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport.

(m) The department may establish a cash only special events single ride fare for special events such as concerts, athletic games, and other large community events where non-scheduled transit service is provided. The special events single ride fare will be sold at $6.25 for all passenger categories under subsection (b)."

SECTION 3. Section 15B-2.10, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021, is amended to read as follows:

"**§ 15B-2.10 Transit fares for individuals with [~~extremely~~] very low incomes.**

(a) Individuals who have received an eligibility letter from the Social Security Administration for benefits under the Supplemental Security Income program are eligible for the reduced transit fare upon the presentation of the Supplemental Security Income eligibility letter to the department.

(b) Individuals who present a voucher issued by the department of community services for benefits under the federal Section 8 housing program are eligible for the reduced transit fare.

[~~(b)~~](c) Individuals whose household incomes meet the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development guidelines for households with [~~extremely~~] very low income within the city for the applicable household size, may also qualify for the reduced transit fare through application to the department of community services. The department of community services shall be responsible for the intake and processing of applications, determination of eligibility, and communication of an applicant's eligibility to the department.

[~~(c)~~](d) The director of community services shall determine the eligibility of the individual for the reduced transit fare established under this section upon review and verification of an application to qualify for the fare. The application form must be prescribed and furnished by the director of community services. The director of community services may require proof of age, total household income, and

household size, and proof may include but will not be limited to true copies of personal income tax returns, bank statements, or other financial records. The director of community services may require authorization from the household to enable the director of community services to fully verify household income. The director of community services shall determine whether an applicant qualifies for the reduced transit fare within 60 days of receipt of the completed application, and the decision of the director of community services will be final. The determination of eligibility will remain in effect for the period from the date of approval through the ending of the fiscal year on June 30.

[~~(d)~~](e)Eligible individuals may receive a city payment card programmed with [~~fares as follows:~~

~~(1) A single ride fare of $1.25;~~

~~(2) A daily maximum capped fare of $3;~~

~~(3) A monthly maximum capped fare of $20; and~~

~~(4) A prepaid fare of $45.~~

~~The reduced fares specified in this subsection are not applicable for rides on the city paratransit system or for the special events service.~~] reduced fares as specified in § 15B-2.1. The eligible individual must use the programmed city payment card to pay the reduced fare for rides on the city bus and city rail system; provided that the reduced fare is not applicable when fares for special event services are charged or for rides on the city paratransit system.

[~~(e)~~](f) The department of community services may adopt rules in accordance with HRS Chapter 91 to implement this section.

[~~(f) Availability of this program is limited to a city subsidy of $1,500,000 per fiscal year, unless additional appropriations of general funds or noncity funds are approved.~~]"

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE

SECTION 4. Section 15B-4.5, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021 ("Fare"), is amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

"(b) *Single fare.*

(1) Any person issued a paratransit eligibility identification card under § 15B-4.3 and any person accompanying the ADA paratransit eligible individual shall pay a fare of [~~$2.25~~] $2.50 per person per one-way passenger trip either in cash, by coupon, or by city payment card programmed for the paratransit fare, except as provided in § 15B-2.6. Revenues from the fare will be deposited into the transportation fund.

(2) There is established herein a paratransit fare program for individuals with [~~extremely~~] very low incomes as follows:

(A) Individuals who have received an eligibility letter from the Social Security Administration for benefits under the Supplemental Security Income program are eligible for the reduced paratransit fare upon the presentation of the Supplemental Security Income eligibility letter to the department.

(B) Individuals who present a voucher issued by the department of community services for benefits under the federal Section 8 housing program are eligible for the reduced paratransit fare.

[~~(B)~~](C) Individuals whose household incomes meet the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development guidelines for households with [~~extremely~~] very low income within the city for the applicable household size, may also qualify for the reduced paratransit fare through application to the department of community services as provided hereinbelow:

(i) The department of community services shall be responsible for the intake and processing of applications, determination of eligibility, and communication of an applicant's eligibility to the department;

(ii) The application form must be prescribed and furnished by the director of community services;

(iii) The director of community services may require proof of age, total household income, and household size, and proof may include but is not limited to true copies of personal income tax returns, bank statements, or other financial records;

(iv) The director of community services may require authorization from the household to enable the director to fully verify household income;

(v) The director of community services shall determine whether an applicant qualifies for the reduced transit fare within 60 days of receipt of the completed application, and the decision of the director of community services will be final; and

(vi) The determination of eligibility will remain in effect for the period of one year.

[~~(C)~~](D)Eligible individuals [~~shall~~] will receive a city payment card programmed with a paratransit fare cap of $2 for a one-way trip.

[~~(D)~~](E)The department of community services may adopt rules in accordance with HRS Chapter 91 and having the force and effect of law to implement the paratransit fare program established by this subsection.

(3) Any person to whom a current paratransit eligibility identification card has been issued under § 15B-4.3 [~~shall~~] will pay a single ride fare in accordance with § 15B-2.1 to ride a [~~transit~~] city bus or the city rail system, either by using a programmed city payment card or, for the city bus system, payment may also be made in cash upon display to the bus operator of the paratransit eligibility identification card; except that the single ride fare must not apply when a special event fare is charged under § 15B-2.1."

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.

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE

SECTION 6. This ordinance takes effect on January 1, 2026.

INTRODUCED BY:

Tommy Waters (br)

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

July 22, 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:
Public Transit; Islandwide Fare Structure; Individuals with Very Low Income; Section 8 Housing Program; Fare Structure Table; Deeply Discounted Fares; Special Reduced Term Fares; Special Single Ride Fares; TheHandi-Van, TheBus, Skyline; HOLO Card or City Payment Card; Paratransit Eligibility Identification Card Fares; Department of Transportation Services ("DTS"); Oahu Transit Services, Inc. ("OTS")

Description:
Amends certain provisions of ROH Chapter 15B related to the fare structure for Oahu's Multimodal Municipal Transportation System. Repeals and replaces the Fare Structure Table to, among other things, increase prices charged for certain passenger categories; incentivize the use of the HOLO card over cash fares; and establish a combined reduced fare category for the following passengers: Senior Citizens who are not Hawaiʻi residents, Persons with Disability, Paratransit Eligibility ID Holders, Medicare cardholders, and Individuals with Very Low Income (provided that the reduced fare for the monthly pass and the annual pass are only eligible to passengers who are Hawaiʻi residents). Establishes fares for nonresident adults. Increases the price of the special reduced term seven-day pass. Authorizes the DTS to establish a special single ride fare for transportation to and from the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport. Authorizes the DTS to establish a cash only special events single ride fare for certain special events. Amends the fare amounts for individuals with very low incomes and repeals the appropriation cap on the availability of the program. Allows individuals who present a voucher issued by the Department of Community Services for benefits under a Section 8 housing program to be eligible for the reduced transit and reduced paratransit fare. Increases the one-way passenger trip fare for any person issued a paratransit eligibility identification card and any person accompanying the ADA paratransit eligible individual. Takes effect on January 1, 2026.

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