HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL

KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

No. 25-313

FILED
NOV 7 2026
PURSUANT TO ROH Sec. 1-2.5

RESOLUTION

URGING OAHU TRANSIT SERVICES, INC. TO SETTLE NEGOTIATIONS WITH HAWAII TEAMSTERS AND ALLIED WORKERS LOCAL 996.

WHEREAS, Oahu Transit Services, Inc. ("OTS"), the private nonprofit corporation that operates the City and County of Honolulu ("City") bus system ("TheBus"), and Hawaii Teamsters and Allied Workers Local 996 (the "Union"), which represents approximately 1,400 OTS employees, including drivers, mechanics, and support staff, have been in negotiations for a new collective bargaining agreement for TheBus operations since the prior seven-year agreement expired in June 2025; and

WHEREAS, after five months of negotiations and warnings of a possible strike, on October 31, 2025, OTS presented its "last, best and final offer," which the Union is urging its members to reject; and

WHEREAS, on November 2, 2025, Honolulu's public news media reported that negotiations between OTS and the Union have reached a standstill, raising concerns over a potential strike; and

WHEREAS, as there is no backup service, a strike would impact approximately 130,000 daily riders of TheBus, leaving thousands without reliable transportation to work, school, or doctor's appointments; and

WHEREAS, OTS employees covered under the agreement currently being negotiated have been working without a contract for the past five months, causing stress and uncertainty for the employees; and

WHEREAS, in addition, OTS employees are dealing with the same issues related to Honolulu's high costs of living and shutdown-related disruptions to federal services and assistance programs as the riders they serve; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that it urges Oahu Transit Services, Inc. to settle negotiations with Hawaii Teamsters and Allied Workers Local 996 as soon as reasonably possible in order to avoid potential service disruptions and harm to OTS employees and TheBus riders; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council supports any budget needs of the City's Administration to help OTS employees achieve parity with mainland counterparts who also live and work in high cost of living areas; and

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BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Mayor, the Director of Transportation Services, and the Chair of the Board of Directors of Oahu Transit Services, Inc.

INTRODUCED BY:

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

NOV 7 2025

Honolulu, Hawai'i

Councilmembers

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