

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED FLOOR DRAFT:

Bill 54 (2025), CD2 RELATING TO PUBLIC TRANSIT.

The PROPOSED FD1 makes the following amendments to the proposed CD2:

- A. In SECTION 2 of the bill:
 - 1. Retains (rather than amends) the current fare structure table and related fare provisions to remove proposed fare increases for certain City bus and City rail system passengers; and
 - 2. Re-letters the proposed provision that would allow the Department of Transportation Services to establish a special single ride fare for transportation to and from the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport from subsection (n) to subsection (m), due to amendments noted in summary item A.1.
- B. Amends SECTION 3 of the bill to retain the current fares for individuals with extremely low incomes.
- C. Deletes SECTION 4 of the bill, which would have amended ROH § 15B-4.5 to increase the one-way passenger trip fare for any person issued a paratransit eligibility identification card. Renumbers subsequent SECTIONS of the bill.
- 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, FD1**
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.

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.

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.



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KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

ORDINANCE _____

BILL **54 (2025), CD2, FD1**

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE

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.

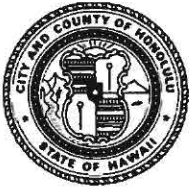
Student Transit Pass. A card, including a smart card, ticket, voucher, or similar document, distributed as approved by the department, that entitles a student holding the pass to ride on the city bus and rail system for the duration specified on the pass.

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"] The term 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
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



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CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE

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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

- (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



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KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

ORDINANCE _____

BILL **54 (2025), CD2, FD1**

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE

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.



HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL
KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

ORDINANCE _____

BILL **54 (2025), CD2, FD1**

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE

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

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 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 whose household incomes meet the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development guidelines for households with extremely 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) 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,



HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL
KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

ORDINANCE _____

BILL 54 (2025), CD2, FD1

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE

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) Eligible individuals may receive a city payment card programmed with fares as follows:

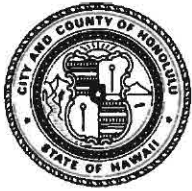
- (1) A single ride fare of \$1.25;
- (2) A daily maximum capped fare of \$3;
- (3) A monthly maximum capped fare of \$20; and
- (4) A prepaid fare of \$45.

The reduced fares specified in this subsection are not applicable for rides on the city paratransit system or for the special events service.

(e) 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.]~~"

SECTION 4. 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.



HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL
KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

ORDINANCE _____

BILL **54 (2025), CD2, FD1**

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE

SECTION 5. This ordinance takes effect on July 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 Extremely Low Income; Special Single Ride Fares; Department of Transportation Services ("DTS"); Oahu Transit Services, Inc. ("OTS")

Description:

Authorizes the DTS to establish a special single ride fare for transportation to and from the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport. Repeals the appropriation cap on the availability of the program for individuals with extremely low incomes. Takes effect on July 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.