

Bill 54 (2025), CD2 Testimony

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Naomi Deleon Guerrero and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

My siblings and I take the bus to and from school and we rely heavily on public transportation specifically the bus!!

Mahalo for your time,
Naomi Deleon Guerrero

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Franchezca Silva and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

Transportation to places should be a right. Even if we no can afford. There's probably a single mom out there with no car, no one to rely on, and income that is spent on rent, groceries, kid(s), and other bills that pile up. Some of us take DaBus to work everyday and we shouldn't be asking ourselves if we will be able to make it to work because we short on one quarter.

Mahalo for your time,
Franchezca Silva

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Cashianelle Alfred and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

Public transportation should be free for locals. i can't afford the monthly passes better yet \$3 alone per ride. It isn't fair that locals and tourist have to pay the same amount... locals should be cheaper because of the cost of living and gas going up. Wasn't the point of the bus was for convenience for our local riders to have a safe and cheap ride to and from places? Adult paying 3 dollars per ride is crazy enough. I don't wanna pay more than 2

Mahalo for your time,
Cashianelle Alfred

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Janel Vasquez and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because so many families including mine rely on the bus transportation to get to school and work on top of already having high grocery prices this adds such unnecessary weight of making sure I am still able to afford the bus pass. I should've have to dish out even more money when living here is hard as it is.

Mahalo for your time,

Janel Vasquez

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Maxine Patterson and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

Transportation should be assessable for all in the community. Many low income people rely on public transportation and need it to be reliable and cannot afford to may more

Mahalo for your time,
Maxine Patterson

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Patti Lai and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

This hike in fare is too close to the last one. Although I personally don't catch the bus (the Skyline, yes), this impacts my children who DO use the Bus system as well as the Skyline, to get to work. They're just starting out, so it greatly impacts them. To encourage people to keep using public transportation, fares need to stay reasonable. Keeping fares low will help young adults, kupuna, disabled and students. Basically, everyone that uses the system!

Mahalo for your time,

Patti Lai

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Joshua Quigley and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

Needless to say, but please consider that there will be people who can't afford this pay increase. We all know that living in Hawaii is expensive. Everything (bills, groceries, insurance, etc.) is going up and wages/salary aren't keeping up with that pace.

One of the great benefits of commuting by public transportation is the money it saves you. By raising the prices, people will be more inclined to just drive; creating more congestion on our already crowded roads, and lowering ridership on the rail. Yes, public transportation would still be cheaper overall, but when also considering the convenience, comfort, and time saved of driving in a car, people will start to just drive places. I know I will consider it. I am thankful for the new segment in the rail, but I don't believe that is enough to justify this increase. Raising the fares won't help the budget deficit, but punish low income families; especially if the window is shortened to two hours.

Mahalo for your time,
Joshua Quigley

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Dani Quigley and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I believe that public transportation should serve all communities, especially those who cannot afford a car. The price of living is going up and wages don't reflect that growth, so increasing the bus fare is only punishing those who need access to the bus the most. Decreasing the time to transfer is also just adding salt to the wound.

Mahalo for your time,
Dani Quigley

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Carol Li and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I rely on the bus and public transportation every day to get around and to and from work. The prices are already significantly impacting my finances. Any increase will add up over time hindering my ability to spend or invest in other long-term economic drivers in Hawaii (ex: supporting local businesses, donating to charities and non-profits, etc.). If there requires a price increase it should fall upon visitors rather than locals.

Mahalo for your time,

Carol Li

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Cindy Escobar and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because Living cost are already so high I can barely afford transportation & i depend on the bus to get around the island or to work even.

Mahalo for your time,
Cindy Escobar

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Jonathan Huynh and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. I am a resident of Nanakuli, and I strongly oppose Bill 54 because it would:

(1) Raise transit fares (monthly pass: \$80 -> \$90; annual pass: \$880 -> \$990).

(2) Shorten the transfer window from 2.5 hours to 2 hours. Both would make public transit less accessible and increase the cost of living for the most vulnerable.

1. Raising fares, especially in the city with the nation's worst traffic congestion, discourages ridership. Higher prices make transit less attractive compared to driving, which would push more people into cars — thereby worsening congestion, not alleviating it. If the goal of transit policy is to reduce traffic and emissions, this bill moves us in the wrong direction.

2. Increasing fares will disproportionately affect low-income riders and those who rely on public transit as their primary mode of transportation. Many households already struggle with high housing and food costs, so raising transportation costs adds further inequity.

3. While the Council may intend these increases to help close a budget gap, the actual financial benefit from the fare hikes is relatively small compared to the overall system cost. However, the cost burden is shifted even more heavily from taxpayers to the riders themselves. This adds further inequity.

4. Bill 54 includes a reduced fare for very-low-income individuals, and I appreciate the intent behind this provision. By narrowly targeting only the very-lowest income riders, Bill 54 creates a sharp affordability cliff: riders who earn just above the eligibility threshold will pay significantly more despite facing the same high housing, food, and childcare costs. This approach undermines equity rather than advancing it.

5. Raising prices makes public transit less accessible, the antithesis of a well-connected, equitable society that doesn't push locals away from the islands. Rather than raising prices, the City should invest in making transit more reliable, efficient, and affordable. Lower fares incentivize ridership, reduce road congestion, improve equity, and help meet climate goals. Bill 54 moves in the opposite direction by placing additional costs on those least able to shoulder them. For these reasons, I urge you to oppose Bill 54. I implore you to explore alternatives that protect riders, support equity, and encourage greater usage of public transit without unnecessary cost burdens.

Mahalo for your time,
Jonathan Huynh

Mahalo for your time,
Jonathan Huynh

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is John Lawson and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because I strongly oppose any increase in bus fares on O'ahu. Public transportation is essential for many residents who are already struggling with the high cost of living. Increasing fares would place an unfair financial burden on low-income individuals, students, seniors, and working families who depend on the bus to get to work, school, and medical appointments.

Mahalo for your time,
John Lawson

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Maddie Meheula and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because public transportation should be cheaper! Not more expensive! Voting to pass this measure would put the burden on your own constituents who are often low income. Shame on those who sponsored this bill, and those who vote yes.

Mahalo for your time,
Maddie Meheula

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Tri Vu and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because as a resident of Honolulu, I regularly use the bus as a form of transportation to and from my work and school. I am very tight on my income, and do not have much to spare. I feel that if this bill gets passed, I will not be able to afford some of my daily needs, such as groceries. On the behalf of every bus rider here, an increase in price of the bus fair would affect many bus riders way of transportation to their work, school, etc. Many bus riders I know take the bus because they cannot afford a car. If they cannot afford their bus fair, they would have no way else to get to work, than relying on other people's cars. The reliance on cars would be less efficient as well, as the car would have to travel longer distances than usual, increasing gas emissions. Thank you for your time.

Mahalo for your time,

Tri Vu

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Royal Tuigamala and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because as someone who rides the bus, there are times where I would travel far. I oppose because it is at a reasonable and affordable price. I ride the bus to appointments and also to Dialysis (currently a dialysis patient since March 2025). I drive but because I am on dialysis, I am very weak and unable to do much.

Mahalo for your time,
Royal Tuigamala

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Lorayne Aguinaldo and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because cuz da bus is supposed to be affordable for everyone! No more sneaky costs to make it more expensive!

Mahalo for your time,
Lorayne Aguinaldo

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Tre Thomas and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because it is hard for us middle class people already raising the bus fares would make it harder for the people that actually use the buses. From young kids going to school to kupuna's riding I DO NOT agree with bill 54

Mahalo for your time,
Tre Thomas

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Francine Jeanne Madayag and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because thousands of people on O'ahu depend on public transportation daily. Bill 54 will impact the most vulnerable demographic on the island. Those of lower income who utilize TheBus and its services often have no other choice but to purchase monthly passes in order to get around as a personal vehicle is a massive expense that is simply difficult for those who are disabled or financially insecure.

Mahalo for your time,
Francine Jeanne Madayag

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Andre Johnson and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because transit shouldnt be more expensive thsn it is. As someone who is a daily Skyline and TheBus rider by choice I can't help but think about my fellow riders who arent as fortunate as me and dont have access to a car whose quality of life really depends on reliable and affordable Transit

Mahalo for your time,
Andre Johnson

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Haley Neves and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because The bus is the cheapest public transportation. Racking up the prices will make it harder for people to afford it.

Mahalo for your time,
Haley Neves

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Delylah Sanerivi and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because it's already hard trying to make sure I have enough in my holo card to get me to work and back home daily until my next paycheck plus anywhere else I need to go. I would spend \$80 on a monthly pass but with rent, utility bills and not even being able to qualify for EBT as a single mother I need to make I have just enough to put food on the table. Now they want to raise the price, it's just ridiculous as is! If bus fare gonna go up might as well bring back the day passes which was one less thing I had to worry about.

Mahalo for your time,
Delylah Sanerivi

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Dalia Rios and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because

Mahalo for your time,
Dalia Rios

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Cherylin Paiva and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because

Mahalo for your time,
Cherylin Paiva

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Sarah Soares and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because the price of riding is already too high for struggling individuals in our communities. Our budgets for buying bus passes for ourselves and our kids aren't going up, we can't keep up with the price raises. The rising costs will make it more difficult for families trying to get their kids to school, low income individuals trying to get to work, doctors appts, etc. It's also unfair for those who count on that lengthy transfer time when they live farther out or it's harder for them to get from stop to stop. Understand that in this time of shutdowns and ICE, our people are already trying to pinch every dollar to save in case the government shuts down or it feels unsafe in our neighborhoods. This isn't the time for another price hike, our communities cannot afford.

Mahalo for your time,
Sarah Soares

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Juanita Kaahanui and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because the cost of living is so high and it's unfair to our working class people who work so hard to get to work.

Mahalo for your time,
Juanita Kaahanui

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Erina Nagaya and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

Mahalo for your time,
Erina Nagaya

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is YASU NAGAYA and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

Mahalo for your time,
YASU NAGAYA

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Sylvia Lankford and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure don't bill 54

Mahalo for your time,
Sylvia Lankford

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Pualani Domingo and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because while 25 cents sounds small, it adds up fast for people who take the bus every day to get to work or school. The people who pay in cash are often those who can't afford a monthly pass or don't have a bank account, so this "small" change targets the most vulnerable residents.

Mahalo for your time,
Pualani Domingo

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Meekah Rabang and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because many people rely on TheBus as the only source of transportation. Increasing the prices of TheBus passes will negatively impact the working class and those who have a tight budget. Hawaii's cost of living is increasing rapidly, and increasing the prices of the passes will only affect the people even more. More people will not be able to afford to live and have reliable and affordable transportation.

Mahalo for your time,
Meekah Rabang

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Love Akina and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because this bill would significantly impact my and my community's ability to get around. Gas and car costs are already rising for those of us who have personal vehicles, and this increase would limit our options even more and/or significantly impact our lives and ability to support ourselves with balancing transportation and other cost of living expenses. I oppose the passing of this bill and an increase on the HOLO transportation fee increase because this system is already costly but is a valuable resource in my community. The passing of this bill would only serve to isolate us further and make it harder to support our families.

Mahalo for your time,
Love Akina

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Jorge Gonzalez and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because the cost of living in Hawaii is already high as it is. Many people choose to ride the bus in order to save money from the high gas and parking prices. The price of everything going up makes it harder to live in the paradise that is Hawaii which we love. I'd really appreciate it if you didn't raise the bus fares. I do ride the bus every day and every month of the year.

Mahalo for your time,
Jorge Gonzalez

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Amber M and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because as a single mother who works two jobs. The bus is the most affordable route for me to get to my jobs as well as ensure I can get my child to school , appointments and do other activities with such as going to the mall , to the store , to get school supplies. Not many can afford to a car , to drive and the rising prices of car insurance and gas. As well as many I know many elderly folks I've met through the 30+ years of my life who are unable to drive but still seek independence and catch the city bus to get to appointments, do meet up with other elderly folks or friends , to go to do their grocery shopping because trying to get transportation like uber Lyft or handi van isn't always easy to access for them or they simply do not have family to help them with day to day life things such as having a transportation.

My child also loves riding the bus because of the many sweet souls that are bus drivers who have showed her patience and kindness while she inserts bus money or tap the holo holo card. It also takes away from other youths to learn and share a path of independence to travel using public transportation. Rising the prices it'll cause parents to have to make other arrangements so their child can get to school on time , make it to any extra activities like sports or school clubs , to just simply go to the movies

Mahalo for your time,
Amber M

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Precious Ibe and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because this would negatively impact the working class to rely on the bus to get to work, and the elderly people to don't have any other option bus but to use the bus to get from place to place. This price raise might not sound like a lot for people who don't rely on the bus, but the price builds up. Riding the bus should be reliable and affordable for Hawai'i residents.

Mahalo for your time,
Precious Ibe

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Aubrey Dela Cruz and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because public transportation should be obtainable and affordable for everyone. Given the recent economic struggles many are facing here in Hawaii, a raise in public transportation unfairly disproportionately impacts families who actually need the bus because they have no other mode of transportation. The government should focus on taking care of the people and raising the prices could put strain on the masses.

Mahalo for your time,
Aubrey Dela Cruz

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Christopher Rochevot and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because this negatively affects low income families. We should be working to lower the barrier of entry to public transit especially with the Skyline expansions. The tourism fees should be used to cover the costs of transit for the community

Mahalo for your time,
Christopher Rochevot

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Brianna Mahoe and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because I used to ride the bus when I was in college. And i caught the bus from HCC to Kaneohe 5x days a week and 7x days a week from Ala Moana to Kaneohe. Thank goodness I had a student pass from school but that would of been a lot of money if i didn't have a pass as a college student.

Mahalo for your time,
Brianna Mahoe

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Allan Oneisom and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because this proposal to raise fares is unnecessary, I do not think it will benefit the public, who, are already in times of struggle. Uber and other ride-sharing apps are costly. There are more fatal accidents on the road, reckless drivers. And cars alone are a financial burden.

The bus is an integral part of the islands. It provides an accessible, affordable way to get to where you need to go. Raising the fare would only push the public away from paying it. They have things to get done, places to be. Everything else is already chipping away at a majority of the pay! Public transport should always be an option, and in order for it to remain a viable option, the fares should be lower and appealing.

Other solutions / proposals should be looked into instead. For example, I think it'd be nice to see some stops with shelter. I also believe that this anti-homeless architecture we've installed in town is not showing much aloha. Before even raising the fares, we need to show that we care for the people of Hawai'i, and for their safety and wellbeing. I do not believe it is so welcoming, and acceptable to shove a paper in someone's face, screaming, "Look! Look! You now owe me this much! Pay up!" whilst they are out, exhausted, stressed, or busy.

Care for the people first, then business later.

Mahalo for your time,
Allan Oneisom

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Kainani Nitz and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because as someone who uses the Bus regularly this would mean I have to pay more money regularly to ride. I also live on the windward side, longer transfer times would also be unhelpful. For people who can't drive like kupuna, keiki, or people with disabilities the Bus is incredibly important. The city should be working to prioritize public transit not make it less affordable.

Mahalo for your time,
Kainani Nitz

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Edwina Ching and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because why increase the fares when we should be encouraging drivers to use public transportation to reduce traffic accidents? Keep prices as is and more will use the bus and rail.

Mahalo for your time,
Edwina Ching

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Emanuelle Rei Ganal and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because I'm currently living with my parents and we cannot handle the fares going up. Only of them is working and I am too young to do anything to help them money wise. Getting around is hard enough we shouldn't have to also start worrying about how much it'll cost us to get home, to work or to do anything in general.

Mahalo for your time,
Emanuelle Rei Ganal

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Sahara Rivera and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because public transportation should be affordable, if not free to the public because it helps reduce traffic, lower environmental impact AND our tax dollars should be used for these type of services!

Mahalo for your time,
Sahara Rivera

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Kyree Naiwi and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Bill 54 2025, which would raise bus fares across Oahu.

Public transportation, especially TheBus, is not a luxury. It is a lifeline. My family members who are elderly and disabled, along with students, classmates, and friends, depend on affordable bus service every single day. They rely on TheBus to get to work, attend school, go to medical appointments, pick up groceries, and handle basic errands. For many of them, there is no other reliable way to get around our island.

While the proposed fare increases may look small on paper, they create a real burden for families who are already struggling with the high cost of living. Rent, food, utilities, and healthcare costs continue to rise. Every added dollar spent on transportation is a dollar taken away from basic needs. These increases would especially hurt kupuna living on fixed incomes, people with disabilities, and low income riders who already stretch every paycheck.

Transportation was meant to be affordable so people can move from one place to another and fully participate in their communities. When bus fares go up, it affects whether someone can make it to work, attend class, pick up prescriptions, or keep important medical appointments. This is not just about numbers. It is about access, independence, and quality of life.

I respectfully ask the Council to consider other funding solutions that do not place the burden on the very people who rely on public transportation the most.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Mahalo for your time,
Kyree Naiwi

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Jenna Alo-Gunther and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because I am a single mom of 3 and my older kids use the bus to get home since the school bus doesn't go to my house. They also use it to get around so I can work full time and not lose money to go pick them up from school events. Please don't raise it, it is hard enough to live here with all the expenses.

Mahalo for your time,
Jenna Alo-Gunther

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Codi Wong and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because we cannot expect ridership of the bus and connected public transportation to go up and have a positive public opinion if the price keeps going up! Many of our future plans hinge on bus ridership. We need people to use the rail to encourage its extension but we need the bus to connect us to the rail and our final destination. We need the bus to support new housing with no parking spaces. There are people who cannot or should not be driving (for safety and health reasons) and the bus is needed as their method of transportation. Raising the fare price will discourage use which is not what Honolulu needs now AND in the future.

Mahalo for your time,
Codi Wong

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Marleina Sama and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because it's very hard times. Everything is going up having to work multiple jobs just to provide for my family of 3 and a new born on the way. I'm all ready struggling with the \$3 fare ride, I give Pennie's but I make sure it's \$3 worth, now we are getting an additional.25cents.. It's more sad cause the kupunas and disabled loved ones getting an extra charge. So unfair, like we're is the ALOHA that HAWAII has always had..

Mahalo for your time,
Marleina Sama

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Yannis Basilio and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because I am a student who relies heavily on the Bus and Rail to travel between home, school, and extra curriculars.

Mahalo for your time,
Yannis Basilio

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Daniel Kim and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because the state should look towards raising revenue from other avenues, not by raising bus fares which is a necessity for the lowest income residents to get around. Tell the 80 year old grandmas who still need to ride the bus to and from downtown every weekday because they're too poor to retire that her fares are going to increase. The 4 bus is packed every morning and evening with senior citizens who are going to work and going home. You are going to make them pay more?

Mahalo for your time,
Daniel Kim

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Wei Liu and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because I and many others like myself rely on the bus daily. An increase in fares would further discourage and limit ridership. My mom uses the bus daily for everyday tasks such as buying groceries and running errands. We are already low-income and the increased cost would affect us negatively. I urge you to think about other families in the same position as mine. Many of us are already struggling with the rising costs of groceries and housing. TheBus is an important part of many citizen's lives and I hope it remains that way, as a public good for the people.

Mahalo for your time,
Wei Liu

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Christina Andres and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because increasing the cost of fares for bus fares would negatively affect accessibility for people who rely on public transportation to get to work, to see loved ones, go to the grocery store, etc.

Mahalo for your time,
Christina Andres

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Caitlin Larkin and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because the cost of living and commuting is already high, keeping the bus affordable is better for the environment, low income persons, and keeping routes available for more public transportation systems (rail). With construction constant on the roads keeping a reduced number of cars is valuable in upkeep for the durability of the roads. At a time when many community members are struggling, hurting public services is a disservice and a display of greed.

Mahalo for your time,
Caitlin Larkin

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Sheylynn Lopez and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because I catch the bus every day to get to school and work and so does many other kids and adults and because of this less and less people can get around because their salary can barely pay for the things then need and plus depending were i need to go during the week I pay almost 20 dollars and many people cant afford a car catches the bus i have been catching bus since 2018 and I feel like this shouldn't go up because more locals use it to get from and to where they need to be

Mahalo for your time,
Sheylynn Lopez

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Hanalei Bell and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because while everything goes up we can't afford to pay an extra 25 I can't make ends meet let alone put food on my table

Mahalo for your time,
Hanalei Bell

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Alex Cheng and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because TheBus has been a constant form of transportation for those who do not own other means of transport, especially those who can't rely on family members or friends to drive them to their destinations (i.e. kupuna and keiki). Living expenses in Hawaii have only been getting more expensive. Local families already struggle with keeping up with routine living expenses such as rent, mortgage, food, and necessities. Why would we want to make our local families struggle even more by making TheBus fares increase? Bus fares used to be affordable, it should stay that way.

Mahalo for your time,
Alex Cheng

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Jacob Gordon and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because I oppose this measure because I am a child with parents who rely on the bus to go to work, we live in Nanakuli and my mom works in Waikiki. She has to take two busses there and two busses back, she wakes up at 3am every morning to make it on time and comes back home around 8-9 pm. We're barely surviving as is, we're living paycheck to paycheck and passing this law would just make things worse. We're also a family trying to save for me to go to college and I graduate in a few months, we don't need any more financial stress than the stress we have. So im asking you nicely to please please please not pass this bill. This bill will negatively affect EVERYONE who relies on the bus.

Mahalo for your time,
Jacob Gordon

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Chanice Vilorio and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because the cost of living in hawaii is already expensive. Low income families already having hard time in hawaii. Everything has been going up and we need transportation to be affordable for the people of hawaii.

Mahalo for your time,
Chanice Vilorio

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Vivian Darby and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because for some people the overall cost could affect people's lives with their income. This could also affect children trying to go home and to school because the schools may not give out free bus passes anymore. High school students like me who don't have a bus pass it's hard getting the money.

Mahalo for your time,
Vivian Darby

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is kaua brash and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because i catch the bus every day and with bus fairs going up it's making it harder and harder to catch the bus and some people don't have holo cards and can't refill them some only have loose change and whatever we can find in the house

Mahalo for your time,
kaua brash

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Vivian Darby and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because for some people the overall cost could affect people's lives with their income. This could also affect children trying to go home and to school because the schools may not give out free bus passes anymore. High school students like me who don't have a bus pass it's hard getting the money.

Mahalo for your time,
Vivian Darby

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Michael Shiraishi and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose Bill 54 because in these tough economic times; it makes no sense to make those who are having a tough time surviving pay more. Most Bus riders make hourly and now raising the monthly bus fare to \$90 is unfair. The Bus routes are so inefficient, maybe The Bus management should be pared down to save money; since they are using computers to plan bus routes. Use the saved money on the top heavy department to pay for Bus driver salaries.

Mahalo for your time,
Michael Shiraishi

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Patrick Michaelis and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

Mahalo for your time,
Patrick Michaelis

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Roger Louis-Charles and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because people who catch the bus are already financially vulnerable

Mahalo for your time,
Roger Louis-Charles

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Ashton Vellequette and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

This bill does not improve the cost of living for low income families or improve the circumstances for those who rely on public transportation the most. The bill also does not provide exemption or protection from fare increases for those struggling with disability or who are below poverty.

Any attempt to increase revenue for TheBus and it's operation costs should come from proper budgeting of transportation services from the government's oversight of taxpayer dollars.

With the new minimum wage increase to 16 dollars this year, we should already be seeing more tax revenue that can be allocated for public transportation services. That tax revenue should be the money used to fund TheBus instead of cutting into individuals and family's already limited expenses. Why should we pay such high taxes if they're not being responsibly used to fund our city's education and public transport?

Mahalo for your time,
Ashton Vellequette

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Crystal Carnero and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

You should build public bathrooms usage at each station and coordinate the buses and rail better and not an inconvenience, this extends time travel and frustration not to mention health issues... and raising the price is just going to make the roads have more illegal drivers.

Mahalo for your time,
Crystal Carnero

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Ava Dodhi and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because The Bus as a system fulfills the role of providing accessible transportation to the public. Often times the people that are on the bus are underprivileged individuals, kupuna, or those who simply do not have a car to traverse the island. Raising the prices on access to transportation hurts these individuals. It's already so difficult to live here, where prices on everything else continues to rise as well. Please keep the prices as they are. Thank you.

Mahalo for your time,
Ava Dodhi

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Giselle Mapanao and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because I use the bus weekly to commute to school and increasing the fares would negatively impact me financially. I am a working student in order to pay for my own tuition and books or whatever I may need for my education. Adding to the cost makes it harder for me to finish higher education.

Mahalo for your time,
Giselle Mapanao

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Dennis Motoaki Shono and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure

Mahalo for your time,
Dennis Motoaki Shono

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Matix Valencia and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because proposing to take transportation away from low income people(s) should get you taken out of office

Mahalo for your time,
Matix Valencia

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Mikell Schoefield and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because I know many people (including students) who rely on the bus and rail for transportation. To the majority of us, buying a car will not be an option until very much later in our lives. Increasing the bus fare by this seemingly small amount will add up and become detrimental to us.

Mahalo for your time,
Mikell Schoefield

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Gabriel Wilkins and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because as a student who might rely on public transport to deal with traffic in the upcoming semesters, I think that this will greatly burden students in the state. I don't think increasing the price of public transport is an intelligent idea when the primary focus should be encouraging more people to use public transport.

Mahalo for your time,
Gabriel Wilkins

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Gabrielle Shiraki-Davis and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because people don't have enough extra money as it is living on this island. That monthly increase can be a person's groceries that will last them A WEEK.

Mahalo for your time,
Gabrielle Shiraki-Davis

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Musashi Reyes and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because due to prices already going up with common expenses such as (Taxes, Gas, Groceries, and etc) I oppose to this measure. Especially if we are against to the people driving with their personal vehicles, and wanting to expand more people on island to use public transport such as bus or the rail, I see no merit into increasing the price for public transportation.

Mahalo for your time,
Musashi Reyes

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Janet Breckenridge and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because it's expensive to take the bus now! Make it free for all!

Mahalo for your time,
Janet Breckenridge

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Summer Callahan and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because I rely on taking the bus almost every day to leave work. I work in Waikiki and live in Aiea, and my husband is the only one who drives. I remember in 2019 when a monthly bus pass was \$60, and now slowly its still going up and I am forced to pay \$80 for a monthly pass. I would be very disappointed if it went up again for others who are also struggling during these hard times

Mahalo for your time,
Summer Callahan

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Vallary Rabilas and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose to Bill 54. I am a student going to college and paying my tuition myself. One of the changes that Bill 54 has is changing the transfer window from two and a half hours down to only two hours. I live in Ewa Beach and my home campus is at Kapiolani Community College. It takes me about 2 hours to get from my home to my campus. Although my college provides a cheaper alternative for bus fares, what am I supposed to do on the days when my fare isn't covered by my college? Not only would I have to pay extra due to the cost increase for the bus fare, but I would also potentially have to pay double if my transfer window runs out. As a student, I need to cut down costs wherever I can. I already spend so much on tuition and school materials, and now I need to spend extra on my bus fare too? This feels like the government is punishing those trying to pursue their education.

Mahalo for your time,
Vallary Rabilas

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Gerald Flores and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because public transport is already hard to use in Hawaii, the price increase can negatively affect already struggling communities such as our elderly, kids, and impoverished neighborhoods that can't afford a car for regular transport. The 25 cent increase may seem insignificant to a lot of people that may only use the bus once but if used at least once daily it adds an extra \$91 to expenses if they're not using holo card. This increase may also drive away potential people that want to use services like the rail and the bus because it would be cheaper to use a gallon of gas to drive somewhere rather than using their car to park at the rail stations to then pay almost the same price as a gallon of gas.

Mahalo for your time,
Gerald Flores

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Chelsy Butay and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because I live very far out in the island and use the bus to commute to work. Increased in bus fair would be terrible with my limited income. Please don't increase the fares.

Mahalo for your time,
Chelsy Butay

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Brandy Lu and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because DaBus is meant to help the youth, young adults, kapuna, and everybody on the islands be able to get around if they do not have the physical or financial capabilities to do so with a personal motor vehicle. There is no need to raise the prices of DaBus as there are so many people that rely on it as their everyday transportation. These riders likely come from low to mid income homes and we should not be making their option to get to their job be the reason they have less income for themselves.

Mahalo for your time,
Brandy Lu

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Gillian Kiana Mapanao and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because Hawai'i is already considered one of the top states for high cost of living. Increasing the bus fares would worsen the financial burden of one of Hawai'i's vulnerable populations — people who qualify for low income status. Personally, the bus has saved me from getting stranded multiple times. I am a high school student without a driver's license nor enough money to afford a car so I often depend on my friends to help me get around. However, at times when there were last minute cancels, the bus would be there to safely get me to where I need to be. There were times when I just barely had enough to take the bus and having the bus fare at what it is now is what got me home safely. I know multiple people who take the bus home late at night and it would be awful if any of them weren't able to catch a safe ride home because they were priced out of taking the bus. Raising the bus fare would be a disservice to all of the hardworking people on Hawai'i who are just trying to get by and get to places safely. Please don't raise bus fares or shorten the time period for free transfers.

Mahalo for your time,
Gillian Kiana Mapanao

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is James Coloma and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

Mahalo for your time,
James Coloma

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Ricki Kaleikula-velleses and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

It is making public transportation inaccessible to those who are already scraping by for bus money.

Mahalo for your time,
Ricki Kaleikula-velleses

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Maren Ross Salomon and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

What is the point in increasing minimum wage if the price of basic necessities increase as well? Im a full time student at UH manoa who also works two jobs in Waikiki. I live in the west side of the island and dorming is expensive. Tuiton covers the bus for now but thats because its included, the fee would increase if prices increase. And some community colleges dont have the bus included in their tuition. People and students take the bus for hours everyday. I take 2 hours to bus from home to work or school.

Mahalo for your time,
Maren Ross Salomon

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Josalyn Nakayama-Yogi and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because I use the bus everyday, twice a day in fact. To get to my destination and then get back home. Raising the price like this again will mean less money for me to buy food or supplies for my family.

Mahalo for your time,
Josalyn Nakayama-Yogi

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Ikaika Sy and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because bus money is hard to come across since most payments are in larger bills and in e-payment

Mahalo for your time,
Ikaika Sy

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Samantha Lara and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because raising fares with clear understanding of what the increase revenue would be for is unaccountable. Are we paying the bus drivers more? Are we insuring each bus stop has seating and shade? Are we putting wifi on the buses? Are we increasing Route 13? I have no idea. I am in opposition of raising bus fare. We should be limiting parking, raising parking ticket costs, and overall reduce parking in efforts to encourage people to use transit. Penalizing bus users is not the way to go.

Mahalo for your time,
Samantha Lara

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Christina Whinnery and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because our residents and our Kupuna can not afford another increase, thank you

Mahalo for your time,
Christina Whinnery

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Jayna Coloma and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

Mahalo for your time,
Jayna Coloma

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Eva Colton and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because I see little to no benefit of raising public transit costs. As a youth, I already struggle to make ends meet, and rely heavily on taking the bus to and from school. It is unreasonable for students to be paying out of their pockets for something the state should already be providing.

Nevertheless people who take public transit already have to deal with crammed buses, long wait times, and questionable individuals. I already feel deterred to take the bus, due to the countless times I've been harassed. Raising these prices would only discourage new riders and myself possibly even more.

Much of the public are still disapproving and disappointed of their tax dollars still spent on a skyline, that still isn't yet finished. These new proposed fare prices, would only give others more of a reason, not to take transit.

Mahalo for your time,
Eva Colton

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is John Lachica and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because many students, families, seniors, and working residents rely on TheBus as their primary way to get to school, work, and essential services. Raising fares may seem small, but these increases add up and place a greater burden on those who already struggle with the high cost of living in Hawai'i. Public transportation should remain affordable for everyone!

Mahalo for your time,
John Lachica

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Ashley Hoohuli and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because the cost of living here is already steep, an additional \$10 for a holo card refill adds up. Affordable transportation is no longer very affordable. What does the price increase provide to the passengers? All the busses are falling apart will this increase help to maintain the busses? Will it make bus stops safer? More lit up and monitored? What does this increase do for passengers?

Mahalo for your time,
Ashley Hoohuli

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Sharlene Barrett-Pilialoha and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this matter because I don't think it's fair to charge more to ride the bus. Their hasn't been any improvements to the buses or bus routes; nothing has changed. So why are you making it less affordable for people to catch the bus? I'm one of the people who can't take the rail because it's more sensible to catch the bus from Nanakuli to downtown, or coming from Waimanalo to Kalihi. For work I had to go from Waimanalo to Campbell industrial. 3 buses I have to take with in a 10-12 hour day. With the travel time, wait time I miss the the transfer window. So daily I spend \$7.50 a day, 5 days is \$37.50, 22 days out of the month I'm spending 165\$. I make less than 45,000\$ a year! Stop raising prices little by little the Hawaii Government is making it harder and harder just to survive. Don't do this please, I'm speaking for not only myself but any low income person who rely on the bus. Mahalo.

Mahalo for your time,
Sharlene Barrett-Pilialoha

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Adriana Saoit and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because it isn't right

Mahalo for your time,
Adriana Saoit

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Renmar Tadeo and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I am a student in middle school and I don't support this because many kids my age are already having a hard time finding change just to fit the extra 50 cents. This is also going to make it more expensive PER YEAR. Not everyone has the extra hundreds of dollars just to suit this. I understand that gas and stuff may be expensive, but riding the bus is already expensive for many families

Mahalo for your time,
Renmar Tadeo

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Samantha Nagtalon and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because it further restricts the working class—the primary users—of Honolulu’s public transportation. This continuing trend towards unaffordability hurts will hurt its users the most, discouraging some and exploiting others who have no other means of travel. Know that unaffordable rates lowers overall ridership, dooming the DOT and the workers of Hawai’i.

Mahalo for your time,
Samantha Nagtalon

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Anna Lombawa and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

Mahalo for your time,
Anna Lombawa

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Lauryn Kesler and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose this measure because as indicated, this bill would place more unnecessary strain on a population already working with tight household budgets.

Mahalo for your time,
Lauryn Kesler

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Chris R and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I am writing this testimony to share my own opinion in which some others can, or are possibly relating to. As someone who makes minimum wage, and knows friends and family who make less than the minimum wage in Oahu, I am strongly against the 0.25-cent sur charge to cash fares. I heavily depend on the bus to travel from home to work and elsewhere daily for the past 4 years, with the exception of friends and family who I catch rides with occasionally or uber, to which I can attest that uber fares can rise and become pricey, as well as gas. Most times, Half my paycheck a month goes to rent, groceries, and other bills then on top of that, emergency-related things unexpectedly to which money can be scarce at times. I usually always do the month pass for the bus, but since the last weeks of each month is where I end up having to pay for said bills, and as I've mentioned money can become scarce , I usually put in whatever I can to make up for the days I have until next paycheck the next first week of the month. Although it maybe just 0.25 cents more, It's usually can seem a lot to some people who struggle with money who possibly live off their paychecks.

Mahalo for your time,
Chris R

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Noriko O'Shea and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

Mahalo for your time,
Noriko O'Shea

January 28, 2026

Bill 54(2025) TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,

My name is Peter Kauleinamoku and I am providing written testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 54 (2025).

I oppose because, the cost of living in Hawaii is very high and affects all of us in many different ways of living. And the cost of risen transportation fare will only cause more financial hardship for those who are and still struggling and for those who truly use our transit system on a daily basis for everyday living as main source of travel.

Mahalo for your time,
Peter Kauleinamoku