



Honolulu Rate Commission
Komikina Lākiō Kāki

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

<http://www.honolulu.gov/boards-and-commissions>

711 Kapi'olani Boulevard, 16th Floor • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

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January 28, 2026

The Honorable Thomas Waters, Chair & Presiding Officer
and Members
Honolulu City Council
530 South King Street, Room 202
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Waters:

Subject: Bill 54 (2025); Testimony in Support

The Rate Commission testifies in support of this measure as it aligns with the following policy recommendations the commission adopted in 2025:

1. An incentive for bus riders to use the HOLO payment card and a disincentive to pay fares with cash to be implemented as a fare increase of \$0.25 for riders paying in cash;
2. An increase of the adult monthly capped HOLO card fare or prepaid pass from \$80.00 to \$90.00;
3. An increase of the youth monthly capped HOLO card fare or prepaid pass from \$40.00 to \$45.00;
4. An increase of the reduced fare category for single rides from \$1.25 to \$1.50;
5. An increase of the reduced fare category for daily/24-hour capped HOLO card fare from \$3.00 to \$3.75; and
6. An increase in the paratransit one-way trip fare from \$2.25 to \$2.50.

In addition to these fare structure revisions, the Rate Commission recommends the repeal of the \$1.5 million per fiscal year limit for the subsidy available for the reduced fare program for individuals with extremely low incomes.

As we have previously testified to the Council, the members of the Rate Commission evaluated these proposals and received public testimony from nearly 100 individuals.

DEPT. COM. 48(26) COUNCIL

Noting the numerous voiced concerns opposing the fare increases, the Rate Commission's recommendations to increase the fare caps instead of the single ride fares represent a balanced approach to supporting the City's transit service while minimizing the financial impact to its transit riders.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at (808) 388-5969.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "DreanaLee K. Kalili". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

DreanaLee K. Kalili, Chair
Honolulu Rate Commission