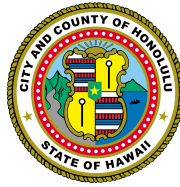


CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION

KOMIKINA LOLI ANIAU
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

650 SOUTH KING STREET, 11TH FLOOR • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 768-2277 • EMAIL: ccc@honolulu.gov • WEBSITE: www.resilientoahu.org



RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR
MEIA

MELANIE ISLAM, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP
BD+C, LFA, CHAIR
KIANA OTSUKA, MSc, VICE-CHAIR
BRADLEY ROMINE, PH.D.
KIRSTEN OLESON, PH.D.
SANDY MA, Esq.

January 30, 2026

The Honorable Rick Blangiardi, Mayor
530 South King Street, Room 300
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

AND

The Honorable Tommy Waters
Chair and Presiding Officer
and Members
Honolulu City Council
530 South King Street, Room 202
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Mayor Blangiardi, Chair Waters and Councilmembers:

SUBJECT: Bill 78 (2025) – Amending Sections of Title IV, Chapter 15, Article 2, Article 22, Article 23, and Article 28, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021, Relating to Parking in the City Traffic Code

The Climate Change Commission ("Commission") is charged, under the Revised Ordinances of Honolulu (ROH) § 2-10.16(1) (2020), with gathering "the latest science and information on climate change effects in the city and provide advice as is deemed appropriate to the executive, the mayor, the council, and city departments and agencies."

The Commission is testifying in **strong support of Bill 78 (2025)**. Bill 78 (2025) updates regulations and pricing for on-street and off-street parking in the Revised

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Ordinances of Honolulu, 2021, Title IV, Chapter 15 - Traffic and Vehicles. Bill 78 (2025) aligns with Strategy 3, Encourage Mode Shift through Parking Efficiency and Action 3.4 Maximize efficiency of public parking at City-owned lots and parking spaces in destinations with high transportation alternatives and implement dynamic metering rates of the Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resilience's [Climate Action Plan 2020-2025](#).

Although O'ahu's emissions declined by nearly 18% between 2005 and 2018, increases in transportation-related emissions caused island-wide emissions to increase between 2017 and 2018, according to the City's Climate Action Plan 2020-2025 (CAP).¹ Ground transportation alone is responsible for one-fifth of total island-wide emissions, or approximately half of total transportation emissions.² More efficiently managing parking, coupled with encouraging density and mixed land use in strategic areas (Strategy 1) and enable and provide multiple modes of green transportation (Strategy 2) has a potentially high GHG reduction potential and is equitable if accompanied by ample access to affordable transit and alternative mode infrastructure, and if parking access is maintained for persons with disabilities.³ Other co-benefits of better managing parking aligned with the Commission's ROH include more space for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure and urban trees, reduced vehicle emissions related to vehicles "circling" looking for parking, and if parking is repurposed with green infrastructure, reduced surface runoff and urban heat island effects.⁴

More efficiently managing the City's parking facilities is key to reducing ground transportation emissions. This is because parking availability and cost are often included in people's decision-making around mode choice, destination, and timing of travel. Low parking prices and high parking availability are more likely to encourage private automobile ownership, induce use of personal vehicles, and shifts costs onto everyone, so that low income communities end up having as big of a role in subsidizing infrastructure that benefits wealthier car owners and those able to afford recurring fuel costs.^{5 6} Parked cars also occupy a significant amount of land, making "free" parking far

1

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5e3885654a153a6ef84e6c9c/t/6080c33e91bbf23a20b74159/1619051381131/2020-2025+Climate+Action+Plan.pdf>

² IBID.

³ IBID.

⁴ IBID.

⁵ <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.3141/2118-04>

⁶ <https://itdp.org/2022/09/20/to-tackle-climate-change-cities-need-to-rethink-parking/>

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from actually free.⁷ Public and private parking in the Honolulu urban core has an occupancy rate of 71% during peak hours with about 13,000 vacant parking spaces.⁸ Thus, reducing the amount of space allocated to parking, and better managing parking that exists, can free up significant amounts of public space that can be used, for example, for other city facilities to support its climate change mitigation and resilience efforts.

In the United States alone, an estimated 3.1 billion gallons of gasoline are expended due to congestion each year, with an estimated 30% of fuel wasted due to vehicles navigating in search of parking — the equivalent of 18.6 billion pounds of carbon emissions annually.⁹ Parking pricing can be an important element of reducing circling, but efficient parking prices must be coupled with sufficient alternative modes of transport.

Further, in a 2020 Island-wide Representative survey, completed as part of the development of the Climate Action Plan¹⁰, many respondents were supportive of parking reforms and/or outcomes associated with better parking management (760 respondents):

- Over 300 respondents said they would be willing to give up some street parking for more safe walking and biking paths.
- 73% would like to have a mix of places such as restaurants, stores, and markets within walking distance in my neighborhood
- Nearly half do not use a bike to their destination because of concerns about traffic safety
- 1 out of 3 respondents do not walk to their destination because of concerns about traffic safety
- 1 out of 3 respondents said they would be willing pay to use roads that are less congested

In conclusion, the Commission applauds the Mayor, Chair Waters, and its members of the City Council for proposing Bill 78 (2025) and stands with you to advance reforms on parking management to help Honolulu become a more climate

⁷ https://www.researchgate.net/publication/235359727_The_High_Cost_of_Free_Parking

⁸ https://oahumpo.org/?wpfb_dl=2991

⁹ <http://shoup.bol.ucla.edu/CruisingForParkingAccess.pdf>

¹⁰

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5e3885654a153a6ef84e6c9c/t/6080c33e91bbf23a20b74159/1619051381131/2020-2025+Climate+Action+Plan.pdf>

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resilient and equitable place. The Commission remains available to advise on the latest science to inform this work. Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments in **strong support of Bill 78 (2025)**.

Should you have any questions, please contact us at ccc@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,



Melanie Islam, AIA, NCARB,
LEED AP BD+C, LFA
Chair



Kiana Otsuka, MSc
Vice-Chair

cc: Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resilience