

RES26-143
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 273

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Jul 8, 2026 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 17

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name: Jonathan Huynh	Email: jhweather123@yahoo.com	Zip: 96792
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jul 1, 2026 @ 11:43 PM
Testimony: Aloha, I strongly support confirming Luca Cuniberti to the Rate Commission. His appointment brings a perspective the commission currently lacks, that of an actual transit-dependent rider shaped by firsthand experience navigating Honolulu's system without the privilege of choosing to drive. Mr. Cuniberti co-founded the Oahu Transit Riders Union and chairs the Policy and Legislation Committee on the Hawaii Youth Transportation Council, established through the Navahine v. HDOT climate settlement. His record demonstrates sustained engagement with transportation governance, not sporadic interest. He has attended Neighborhood Board transportation committees consistently and interned under Councilmember Weyer, showing familiarity with both grassroots advocacy and the legislative process. Some councilmembers raised concerns about his ability to serve while attending college out-of-state. The Rate Commission meets monthly or less frequently, with occasional additional sessions during active fare reviews. Managing that schedule is feasible for someone already demonstrating discipline balancing academic commitments with ongoing civic engagement statewide. Dismissing a highly qualified nominee over hypothetical scheduling conflicts sets a discouraging precedent particularly for younger appointees the Council ostensibly wants attracting into public service. Fare decisions affect low-income riders, youth, disabled residents, and kapuna most acutely, communities historically underrepresented on bodies setting prices they must pay. Mr. Cuniberti's presence ensures those constituents occupy a seat during deliberations rather than waiting outside rooms where outcomes determining mobility access get decided without them. I urge the council to confirm him. Mahalo for your time.		
Name: Ruth Holmberg	Email: holmbergr002@hawaii.rr.com	Zip: 96791
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jul 2, 2026 @ 11:41 AM
Testimony: I hope the council will approve this measure. I believe a young person's perspective will be beneficial.		

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Andrew Cuniberti	andrewcuniberti@mac.com	96712
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jul 4, 2026 @ 02:01 PM
Testimony: As Luca's father I will admit I have a bias towards him. As his nominal "boss" for the past 18 years I have to say to his new potential "bosses" he has in every measure exceeded expectations. Luca has a genuine passion for all things related to transit and has displayed a maturity and grasp of all things transit related that you wouldn't expect for someone of his age. A few years ago I shared the link for the (new at the time) Hawai'i Youth Transportation Council. He took the ball and ran with it, becoming the Policy and Legislation Committee Chair, lobbying for the Keiki Ride Free legislation, forming the Transit Riders Union, etc. It was all his own doing. He may be going off to college in the mainland but his passion will only grow and I have no doubt he would take this appointment very seriously and serve with distinction. I implore you all to consider his nomination to the Honolulu Rate Commission. I am very proud of the man Luca has become, he has never let me down, and I know he will not let the City and County of Honolulu down. Thank you.		
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Michael Motoki	mike.motoki@gmail.com	96817
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jul 4, 2026 @ 02:25 PM
Testimony: Chair Waters, Vice Chair, and Members of the Council, Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of Resolution 26-143. Through my work alongside Luca in our grassroots advocacy at Oahu Transit Riders, I have had the privilege of seeing his dedication to improving our public transit system firsthand. I want to address a specific reservation raised at the previous hearing by Councilmembers Tupola and Okimoto, who expressed concern that serving on this commission could detract from Luca's college experience. As a father of two, I genuinely appreciate where that concern comes from. When you care about young people, your instinct is to protect them. However, I also believe our responsibility as parents—and as mentors in the community—is to help our young adults find the right path, and then have the courage to let them walk it. Sometimes that path isn't the easiest one. It asks more of them than we might choose for them ourselves. But when a young person discovers a calling to serve others, our first response should not be to hold them back. It should be to encourage them and help them grow into that responsibility.		

That is exactly what I see in Luca. He isn't seeking this appointment for recognition or to build a resume. He is asking to serve because he genuinely loves this community and believes he can make a material difference. The time, energy, and thought he has already invested in improving public transportation for Honolulu is not something you can teach—it is a rare commitment that you simply recognize when you see it.

Will balancing college and public service be difficult? Of course. There will likely be evenings when he leaves a commission meeting and goes straight back to studying for an exam. But learning to carry that weight is how young leaders are forged.

Just as parents guide children and hold them accountable, this Council serves as stewards of this commission. If Luca ever fails to meet the expectations of the office, you have the mechanisms to hold him accountable. Based on everything I have seen, I do not believe that will happen.

We often talk about wanting the next generation to become more engaged in civic life. Today, you have a young man who isn't waiting for someone else to solve Honolulu's problems. He is volunteering to be part of the solution.

I respectfully ask you to support Resolution 26-143 and give Luca the opportunity to serve our community. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael Motoki, PE, AICP

Name: Moss Kuon	Email: storiesofmoss@gmail.com	Zip: 96793
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jul 5, 2026 @ 12:25 PM

Testimony:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the Council,

I am testifying in strong support of the appointment of Luca Cuniberti to the Honolulu rate commission. In the 2025 to 2026 session, I served with Luca on the Hawaii Youth Transportation Council. Throughout our time together, Luca demonstrated immense maturity and an intense drive to improve the accessibility and affordability of public transit.

As the chair of the Policy and Legislation Committee, Luca spearheaded our campaigns for Keiki Ride Free. Because of his efforts, the bill was able to make it quite far, eventually dying in the finance committee. Luca was integral to our success as a council, and he will be missed.

I feel that it is extremely important that youth voices are represented when it comes to public transit, and I believe appointing luca would be an excellent way to ensure that those voices are heard. Please, do not discount him. I have seen firsthand that he has what it takes to make an excellent rate commissioner.

Mahalo for the chance to testify.

Name: Karen Gallagher	Email: nstaohu@gmail.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: North Shore Transportation Alternatives	Position: Support	Submitted: Jul 5, 2026 @ 07:25 PM

Testimony:

Aloha Honolulu City Council,

North Shore Transportation Alternatives (NSTA) is a 501c3 dedicated to alleviating traffic and parking congestion on the North Shore of O’ahu.

In November of 2025 the Board of NSTA met with and interviewed Luca Cuniberti as a potential member of our team. The Board was so impressed by his knowledge of the problems we are addressing that he was unanimously added to our Board as a trusted Advisor. In meetings and through his own initiative Luca has proved himself to be a smart, energetic and devoted member of our team. He has great ideas, and follows through on his commitments. His young age and his habit of using public transit regularly are huge assets for us by providing a different and invaluable insight into the various solutions that we are pursuing.

Until you have spent time with this brilliant young man, it would be easy to dismiss his enthusiasm for naivety. In reality, he is excellent at managing his time and is an extremely focused and motivated young man. While his youth may discourage some to trust him in this capacity, it is exactly that youthful enthusiasm and perspective that would benefit the City and County.

He has proved himself as being very capable of multi-tasking; simultaneously serving as the North Shore representative for the Hawaii Youth Transportation Council, working alongside Roger Morton at the City and County of Honolulu Department of Transportation Services, and interning for Honolulu City Councilman Matt Weyer, while still maintaining a 3.9 GPA at the Asia Pacific International School.

Smart, passionate youth are a rarity. Luca Cuniberti is both; you would be lucky to have him as a member of the Honolulu Rate Commission.

Aloha and mahalo for your time,

Karen Gallagher

President North Shore Transportation Alternatives

(808) 372-6289

Name: Malia Boksanski	Email: malia@hiappleseed.org	Zip: 96789
Representing: Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice	Position: Support	Submitted: Jul 6, 2026 @ 08:27 AM
Name: Micah Munekata	Email: mmunekata@ulupono.com	Zip: 96813
Representing: Ulupono Initiative	Position: Support	Submitted: Jul 6, 2026 @ 12:21 PM
Name: Laura Kaakua	Email: Laura.HE.Kaakua@hawaii.gov	Zip: 96813
Representing: Hawai'i Department of Transportation	Position: Support	Submitted: Jul 6, 2026 @ 02:28 PM

Testimony:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Laura Kaakua, and I serve as the Manager of the Office of Energy Security & Community Outreach at the Hawai'i Department of Transportation. I am writing in strong support of CR-176-26, confirming Luca Cuniberti to the Rate Commission.

Luca served on the inaugural Hawai'i Youth Transportation Council (HYTC) from January 2025 to June 2026. His peers elected him Chairperson of the Policy & Legislative Committee, where he successfully championed advocacy for SB2699 (Keiki Ride Free). In this role, he proved himself to be a highly organized leader capable of connecting complex policy to real community needs.

As a daily bus and rail commuter on O'ahu, Luca brings essential lived experience to the table. He deeply understands how transit decisions impact the daily lives of students, low-income families, and transit-dependent youth.

Luca will bring a vital, underrepresented perspective to the Rate Commission, blending dedicated public service experience with firsthand ridership insight. I respectfully urge the Committee to support CR-176-26 and confirm Luca Cuniberti.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Laura Kaakua

Manager, Office of Energy Security & Community Outreach

Hawai'i Department of Transportation

Name:

Damien Waikoloa

Email:

damien.waikoloa@gmail.com

Zip:

96822

Representing:

Self

Position:

Support

Submitted:

Jul 7, 2026 @ 08:31 AM

Name:

Eduardo Hernandez

Email:

eduardo@hbl.org

Zip:

96816

Representing:

Hawai'i Bicycling League

Position:

Support

Submitted:

Jul 7, 2026 @ 09:34 AM

Name:

Jared Tsuchiyama-Sando

Email:

jaredtsuchiyama@gmail.com

Zip:

96818

Representing:

Self

Position:

Support

Submitted:

Jul 7, 2026 @ 12:40 PM

Testimony:

Aloha council members,

I support Luca's appointment as I believe he will provide an invaluable voice to the north shore which is an area that perhaps does not get the same public transit attention as town but where alternative transportation would significantly improve their quality of life by providing locals and tourists an alternative rather than parking more personal vehicles in the already strangled narrow roads in the area which put an undue burden on the residents living there. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Name:

Angie Knight

Email:

angela.g.knight@gmail.com

Zip:

96816

Representing:

Self

Position:

Support

Submitted:

Jul 7, 2026 @ 02:45 PM

Testimony:

I support the nomination of Luca Cuniberti to serve as a member of the Honolulu Rate Commission. He previously served on the Mayor's inaugural Hawai'i Youth Transportation Council and continues to advocate for increased accessibility for our City's transportation services. His experience and commitment to improving a public service that many in our City & County rely on would be an invaluable addition to the Rate Commission. Thank you for your consideration and nomination of Luca.

Name:

Trevor Nagamine

Email:

tnagamine.nb25@gmail.com

Zip:

96789

Representing:

Position:

Submitted:

Self	Support	Jul 7, 2026 @ 02:59 PM
Name: Jacob Wiencek	Email: jacob.m.wiencek@pm.me	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jul 7, 2026 @ 08:37 PM
Testimony: Aloha Council Members, Over the past few years Hawaii has made significant progress in incorporating young voices into our civic processes. The work of the state and city youth commissions along with other youth focused boards have brought fresh perspectives on topics of concern for today and tomorrow. Today, the Council has a chance to further the voices of young people in government. Mr. Luca Cuniberti brings impressive credentials to the Rate Commission role. From such a young age, he had access to a full range of opportunities to get involved, which he leveraged. The Rate Commission is a central component to our transportation system and with Mr. Cuniberti's experience I am confident he will help ensure its stability and sustainability. He brings much needed youth to our government, and his confirmation will send an important message to the young people of Honolulu that they can contribute in equal measure to the health and welfare of our city. I strongly encourage this Council to support Luca Cuniberti's appointment to the Rate Commission!		
Name: Dale VanderBrink	Email: sandmandfgh@gmail.com	Zip: 96814
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jul 7, 2026 @ 11:11 PM
Testimony: Aloha, My name is Dale VanderBrink. I am the 2nd Vice chair of the Ala Moana Kaka'ako Neighborhood Board but I am providing this testimony in my personal capacity. I strongly support Luca Cuniberti to the Rate Commission. Now, more than ever, we need someone who is young and has experience riding and navigating our transit system to have a voice on the Rate Commission. He has had years working in transit related issues and has more experience than people far older than him. Luca's viewpoint is needed on the Rate Commission.		

Please vote yes on Resolution 26-143 and put Luca on the Rate Commission.

Mahalo,
Dale VanderBrink

Name: Benjamin Shafer	Email: bdshafer@gmail.com	Zip: 96717
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jul 8, 2026 @ 08:13 AM

Testimony:

Aloha Kakou to the Honorable Members of the City Council,

I am in full support of Luca Cuniberti in becoming a member of the Rate Commission.

There is no one more serious, knowledgeable, aware of the needs of Ko'olauloa involving the transportations needs of our area.

Luca is a tremendous help as a member of the Transportation Committee with the Ko'olauloa Neighborhood Board of which I am the chairperson.

I am impressed with the seriousness of how Luca has made all things relating to transportation his kuleana.

If there are any questions, please feel free to call or email me

Respectfully submitted,
Benjamin Shafer



**Testimony for Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
Support for Resolution 143
Honolulu City Council
Wednesday, July 8th at 10:00AM**

Aloha Chair Waters and Vice Chair Tupola,
Mahalo for the opportunity to express **SUPPORT** for Resolution 143, which would appoint Luca Cuniberti to the Honolulu Rate Commission.

The Rate Commission plays a critical role in shaping transit access for O'ahu residents. The decisions made about fares directly impact whether working families, seniors, students, and low-income community members can reliably access jobs, healthcare, and education. It is essential that this body include voices who understand these stakes deeply.

Hawai'i Appleseed has had the privilege of working closely with Luca through his roles as council member and Chair of the Policy and Legislation Committee on the Hawai'i Youth Transportation Council, as well as his founding role in establishing the O'ahu Transit Riders Union. Across all of these efforts, Luca has demonstrated an exceptional commitment to transit equity and an impressive depth of knowledge on transit policy. He actively engages, leads, and works to advance equitable transit solutions for all O'ahu residents.

What makes Luca's appointment especially meaningful is the perspective he brings as a young person. Youth voices are too often absent from the tables where transit decisions are made, yet young people are among the riders most dependent on public transit. His presence on the Rate Commission would help ensure that fare decisions reflect the real needs of the next generation of O'ahu commuters.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Malia Boksanski

Transportation Equity Policy Analyst

Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, July 8, 2026 — 10:00 a.m.

UluPono Initiative supports Resolution 26-143 CD1, Appointment of Luca Cuniberti to Serve on the Rate Commission.

Dear Chair Waters and Members of the Council:

My name is Micah Munekata, and I am the Vice President of Government Affairs at UluPono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-focused impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life throughout the islands by helping our communities become more resilient and self-sufficient through locally produced food, renewable energy and clean transportation choices, and better management of freshwater resources.

UluPono supports Resolution 26-143 CD 1, which appoints Luca Cuniberti to serve on the Rate Commission of the City and County of Honolulu.

The confirmation of Mr. Cuniberti would be a meaningful addition to the knowledge and user experiences of this important body. His work on a statewide Keiki Fare Free transit program, general transit advocacy on behalf of users, and his service on the Hawai'i Youth Transportation Council will add important insights into the Rate Commission's work, including the usually absent youth rider perspective.

We applaud Council for considering Mr. Cuniberti's nomination. We have great confidence he will be a thoughtful contributor to the Rate Commission's deliberations.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Vice President, Government Affairs

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i

Damien Waikoloa
Honolulu, HI 96822

Honolulu City Council
530 S. King St.
Honolulu HI 96813

July 8, 2026

RE: Support RES 26-143, CD1 - RELATING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF LUCA CUNIBERTI TO SERVE ON THE RATE COMMISSION OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU.

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

I am writing in **strong support of the appointment of Luca Cuniberti to the Rate Commission.**

Although I have known Luca for only a short time, it quickly became clear that he has a genuine passion for serving his community. His experience as a frequent transit rider and youth transit advocate provides a valuable perspective that is directly relevant to the work of the Rate Commission. Decisions about our public transportation system should be informed by the voices of those who rely on it every day, and Luca brings that firsthand experience to the table.

Just as importantly, our boards and commissions should reflect the diverse communities they serve. Representation comes in many forms, including age, lived experience, and background. Appointing individuals with different perspectives leads to stronger discussions and better public policy recommendations.

Serving one's community is one of the most valuable qualities a person can demonstrate. We should encourage and foster that commitment from a young age because today's young leaders will become tomorrow's decision-makers. By creating opportunities for meaningful public service, we invest not only in our institutions but also in the future of our communities.

I respectfully urge you to confirm Luca Cuniberti's appointment to the Rate Commission.

Mahalo,

Damien Waikoloa

**ADDRESS**

3442 Wai'alahoe Ave., Suite 1
Honolulu, HI 96816

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bicycle@hbl.org

Honolulu City Council

Wednesday, July 8, 2026 - 10:00 A.M.

Hawai'i Bicycling League Strongly Supports Resolution 26-143, CD1
Nomination of Luca Cuniberti to serve as a member of the Honolulu Rate Commission

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

My name is Eduardo Hernandez and I am the Advocacy Director for the Hawai'i Bicycling League (HBL). We are a non-profit organization founded in 1975 with the mission of enabling more people to ride bicycles for health, recreation, and transportation. We strive to create communities across our islands that have safe, accessible, and inclusive environments for people to bike, walk, roll, and use public transit.

HBL supports Luca Cuniberti's nomination to serve as a member of the Honolulu Rate Commission. We first came to know Luca through his work as a member of the inaugural Hawai'i Youth Transportation Council established in 2024, as part of the state's historic constitutional climate settlement case Navahine v. HDOT. This advisory council began meeting in January 2025 and is demonstrating that including young people in transportation planning is vital for our transportation networks to adapt for the needs of the future.

Luca has lived on the North shore of O'ahu his entire life. He brings a firsthand knowledge of the unique traffic, transit, and environment of this part of the island, to inform a statewide perspective to achieve more sustainable and connected transportation networks, including reduced emission bus rapid transit vehicles, bikeshare, and multi-use paths. Luca is committed to inspiring his peers to use public transit and to be an advocate for creating more options for affordable transportation. He regularly attends Neighborhood Board meetings including as part of both the North Shore and Ko'olaupua transportation committees and being part of the North Shore Transportation Alternatives Board. He is thoughtful, inquiring, and collaborative and is a role model not only for peers, but for transportation stakeholders across the board.

Luca will bring a fresh perspective to the Honolulu Rate Commission, offering a youthful voice that is often missing from public policy discussions. He would benefit the Commission by representing the young people of Hawai'i and the challenges they face in using public transit.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask for your support of Luca Cuniberti's nomination.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Eduardo Hernandez
Advocacy Director
Hawai'i Bicycling League

July 7, 2026

Trevor Nagamine
PO Box 37966
Honolulu, HI 96837
tnagamine.nb25@gmail.com

Councilmember Tommy Waters, Chair
Honolulu City Council
530 S. King St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Resolution 26-143 — Relating to the Appointment of Luca Cuniberti to
Serve on the Rate Commission of the City and County of Honolulu

Dear Chair Waters and Members of the City Council,

My name is Trevor Nagamine, and I am a resident of Mililani. I am also a member of Neighborhood Board No. 25 (Mililani/Waipio/Melemanu); however, I am submitting this testimony in my individual capacity, and this testimony does not reflect an official position of Neighborhood Board No. 25. I am writing today in support of Resolution 26-143.

I am fortunate to personally know Luca through our mutual efforts to advocate for the benefit of TheBus and Skyline users, and I know that he will be a great asset to the Rate Commission. I further believe that the City Council should promote and support young individuals like Luca who are civically engaged and have a strong desire to better Honolulu and O'ahu.

I respectfully urge the City Council to approve this appointment. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Mahalo,

Trevor Nagamine