

Bill 87 Testimony

MISC. COM. 935

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Monday, December 7, 2020 12:28 PM
Subject: Council/Public Hearing Speaker Registration/Testimony

Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name	Cheryl Soon
Phone	8087548358
Email	csoon8@yahoo.com
Meeting Date	12-09-2020
Council/PH Committee	Council
Agenda Item	Bills 87 and 89
Your position on the matter	Comment
Representing	Organization
Organization	Honolulu Rate Commission
Written Testimony	Will be sent in
Testimony Attachment	
Accept Terms and Agreement 1	

IP: 192.168.200.67

Donald K. Sakamoto

E-mail: cfadarhonoluluhi@aol.com

Phone: (808) 291-1740

To: Councilmember Ann Kobayashi, Council Chair

Also: City Council Members

3rd floor Council Chambers Room

Honolulu Hale

530 S. King Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

Wednesday, December 9, 2020 10:00 AM

Aloha Chair Kobayashi and Council Members:

My name is Donald Sakamoto and I advocate for riders of TheBus and The Handi-Van. Today, I want to focus my concerns on the proposed Bill 87 CD2, which would increase the Handi-Van fee hikes from \$2.00 to \$2.25. Many riders are people with disabilities who are unable or are afraid to speak for themselves. I am part of a group named "CFADAR." Though we do not represent all of the ridership, we do represent a good cross-section of people with different disabilities, economic backgrounds, etc., from Kaimuki/Kapahulu to Waianae, through central O`ahu, and around the North shore to the east side including Kaneohe where I live.

Originally organized in 2002, we are officially known as Citizens for a Fair Americans with Disabilities Act Ride (CFADAR™). Since 2006, CFADAR has presented concerns that have yet to be addressed and solved. Late pick-ups and drop-offs for: Chemo, dialysis, and other treatments; crucial medical appointments; and most importantly employment, are unacceptable and inexcusable! Waiting in harsh weather conditions, feeling tired or ill, or not having a place to sit and wait for the van can be torturous.

Regarding Bill 87 CD2 we do not agree that this is the appropriate time to increase the Handi-Van fares! The pandemic has placed restrictions in multiple areas and we the citizens of Hawaii are experiencing the largest economic hardship of all time! This is not the time to be deliberating fee hike increases!

At your folks last full city council meeting of Thursday, November 5, 2020 I submitted oral testimony in opposition of Bill 87, and presented oral and written testimony at the November 24, 2020 special city council budget committee meeting for the following reasons:

1. The city should explore other resources and ways to generate additional funds before any increases are proposed such as have the City's Department of Transportation Services implement the TriMed program that the state of Oregon has been using for some time now. This utilizes county, state, and federal funding to subsidize their paratransit ride services, especially with the high volumes of Medicaid clients, etc.
2. Establish the HoLo card for Handi-Van as soon as possible before increasing any fee hikes, because the drivers will have a very difficult time collecting the .25 cents, etc.
3. The City's Department of Transportation Services needs to apply or seek federal grants to subsidize the budget during the COVID-19 pandemic and economic crisis.
4. The Department of Transportation Services should conduct a customer satisfaction survey that was mentioned in the city's auditors report of March 2016 that should strongly determine the demographics of how many SSI riders are on low fixed income, how many of them can afford fee increases, etc. This information can benefit not only the administration and the Honolulu Rate Commission, but you the councilmembers in determining proposed fee hikes, etc.
5. We strongly should wait for the new elected mayor and new councilmembers who will take office next year in January to determine any fee hikes.

I appreciate the opportunity to come before you to share my views and I hope we can all work together for better Handi-Van fee hikes and services for the disabled citizens of Oahu.

Most Respectfully,

Donald K. Sakamoto

President, CFADAR

December 9, 2020

Joy Nakata-Muranaka

650 Sheridan Street, #20

Honolulu, HI 96814

Chairperson: Ann Kobayashi

And Council members

Subject: Bill 87 CD2, 2020

My name is Joy Nakata-Muranaka, a blind individual. I represent a senior visually impaired/blind group called Hui Kupuna VIP.

I am opposed to Bill 87, CD2 and the increase in fair of \$.25 at this time.

First, the Hollo card has been implemented. In the past meetings, it was unknown when it will be. You will insure less mistakes, and stress because you would have eliminated the handling and dealing with that quarter for riders and the drivers. Individuals are already under enough stress dealing with following mandatory rules to follow to eliminate catching the pandemic and the increase with cost of living. Now is not the correct time to try to increase the Handi Van rate and placing more burden on the passengers, who might have two to four stops to make in one trip. Carrying multiple quarters adds additional weight Plus stress for the passengers and drivers in handling the additional quarter/quarters.

Thank you for your time with this matter.

Sincerely

Joy Nakata-Muranaka

Hui Kupuna VIP

President

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Tuesday, December 8, 2020 3:45 AM
Subject: Budget Speaker Registration/Testimony

Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name Charmaine Birchard
Phone 808.436.9359
Email bircharde@gmail.com
Meeting Date 12-09-2020
Council/PH Committee Budget
Agenda Item Bill 87 CD2 2020
Your position on the matter Oppose
Representing Self
Organization

Charmaine Birchard
21 S. Kuakini St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Bill 87 CD2 2020

12/8/2020

Dear Council Members,

I am writing on behalf of Bill 87 CD2 year 2020. I am a legally blind resident who resides on the island of Oahu.

Written
Testimony

I oppose Bill 87 CD2, the rate increase of the Parasit HandiVan. The .25 hike rate for 2021 of July.. I feel especially at this economic crisis due to the pandemic is not sufficient. Around the world as well as in the State of Hawaii the increase of our transportation will cripple our Kūpunas and those who are on a fixed income, like myself. We all depend on the local transit system to get to our doctor's appointments, going grocery shopping and going to the bank to pay our rent or mortgages. These three things mentioned is all our livelihood to substane each and every one of us in the state of Hawaii.

In addition, the Holo card is an essential and purposeful idea. It is safe and all in one transaction not only for the city also for the citizens of Hawaii.

In conclusion, helping us get through this pandemic first is all of our Kalpana and stand as a nation to transition through the coming years of rebuilding our economy .

Thank you for your time to read my testimony of Bill 87 CD2 2020.

Charmaine Birchard

December 9, 2020

Betty Mason

1551 S. Beretania Street, # 601

Honolulu, HI 96826

Chair: Ann Kobayashi

& Committee members

Subject: Bill 87, CD2 2020

I am Betty Mason, an 86 years young, visually impaired individual. I rely on the Handi Van for Transportation. I am not in favor of Bill 87 CD2 at this time.

The Pandemic has placed additional issues to deal with including the increase with cost of living and sustenance for oneself. The increase for 2021, Social Security has only increased by 1.3 percent. That will not cover much with the increase in other areas.

The increase should wait.

The holo card should be in place first, to eliminate the inconvenience for passengers and the drivers to eliminate the issue of handling coins.

Thank you for allowing me to share by viewpoints.

Sincerely,

Betty Mason