



RESOLUTION

URGING OAHU TRANSIT SERVICES, INC., TO WORK WITH THE TEAMSTERS UNION TO IMPLEMENT AND PROVIDE HAZARD PAY TO THE CITY'S BUS AND HANDI-VAN DRIVERS ON THE FRONT LINES DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

WHEREAS, the City and County of Honolulu ("City") Mayor's Emergency Order No. 2020-30, as has been the case in all emergency orders since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic ("pandemic") in early 2020, deems TheBus and TheHandi-Van drivers to be essential workers who provide transportation services necessary for essential activities, including transit for other essential workers and those most vulnerable to risks from the pandemic, who rely on public transportation and paratransit services to engage in essential activities (such as keeping medical appointments and meeting basic food needs); and

WHEREAS, on April 16, 2020, TheBus and TheHandi-Van drivers participated in the nationwide "Sound the Horn" campaign to show support for essential public transportation workers across the United States and to recognize the importance of public transportation during the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, as frontline workers with the commuting public, Honolulu's TheBus and TheHandi-Van drivers place themselves at risk of contracting COVID-19 every shift of every day; and

WHEREAS, Oahu Transit Services, Inc., the contracted operator of the City's TheBus and TheHandi-Van services, has confirmed that a 20-year veteran driver of TheBus died from COVID-19 on November 23, 2020; and

WHEREAS, as of December 15, 2020, twenty TheBus drivers have tested positive for COVID-19, with five TheHandi-Van drivers testing positive; and

WHEREAS, various members of the U.S. Congress have tried numerous times, without success, to provide hazard pay for frontline essential workers, such as bus and transit drivers, including one measure to provide up to \$25,000 in hazard pay to each essential worker and a subsequent measure to provide \$10,000 to each essential worker; and

WHEREAS, the failure of Congress to reach agreement on providing hazard pay to frontline essential workers has left it to cities and other jurisdictions to recognize the risk shouldered by bus and paratransit drivers; and



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WHEREAS, for example, the city of Detroit provides an extra \$800 per month of hazard pay for bus drivers and all its frontline workers, and the city of Mount Clemens, Michigan provides its bus drivers hazard pay that that is equal to an additional \$2 per hour; and

WHEREAS, the Council finds that Honolulu's TheBus and TheHandi-Van drivers provide an invaluable essential service that places them at increased risk during the pandemic with little recognition of, and compensation for, their sacrifice and service; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that it urges Oahu Transit Services, Inc., to work with the Teamsters union to implement and provide hazard pay to Honolulu's TheBus and TheHandi-Van drivers on the frontlines during the Covid-19 pandemic; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council requests the Department of Transportation Services, if needed, to request needed budgetary funding and to make necessary budgetary adjustments to allow for the provision of hazard pay to TheBus and TheHandi-Van drivers until such time that the pandemic is controlled and the Mayor's Emergency Order is rescinded or lapses; and



CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII

No. 20-340

RESOLUTION

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Mayor, the Director of Transportation Services, the President of Oahu Transit Services, Inc., and the President of Hawaii Teamsters and Allied Workers Union Local 996 (1817 Hart Street, Honolulu, HI 96819).

INTRODUCED BY:

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DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

DEC 3 1 2020

Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers