## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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RICK BLANGIARDI MAYOR



J. ROGER MORTON DIRECTOR DESIGNATE JON Y. NOUCHI DEPUTY DIRECTOR

February 3, 2021

The Honorable Calvin Say, Chair and Members Committee on Budget Honolulu City Council 530 South King Street, Room 202 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Say and Councilmembers:

SUBJECT: Bill 89 (2020), FD1 - Relating to Public Transit

The Department of Transportation Services (DTS) supports this measure that implements the recommendation of the Rate Commission to raise the fare schedule for the City's bus and rail systems. We also support the proposed CD1 that includes technical and clarifying amendments, and proposes a cap for the Extremely Low Income program in Section 16.

Pursuant to the Revised Charter of Honolulu, the Rate Commission is authorized to recommend adjustments to fares and other charges for use of the City's multimodal municipal transportation system. Following transmittal of the recommendations to the Council, the Council shall fix and adjust reasonable fares and other charges so that the revenues derived therefrom, in conjunction with any other revenues allocated to the City's transportation system, shall be sufficient or as nearly sufficient as possible. The Council may also consider factors such as transportation equity, accessibility, sustainability, availability, and effect on ridership.

While we support this measure, in light of the widespread economic impacts of the pandemic and the significantly reduced ridership on TheBus, the DTS defers to the Council on the timing of the implementation of the updated fare schedule. However, the DTS respectively urges the Council's favorable consideration to approve non-fare provisions in this bill for immediate implementation, including those provisions that authorize fare capping and administrative fees for the HOLO card.

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This measure complements Bill 87 (2020) that also implements recommendations made by the Rate Commission and proposes to increase the paratransit.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony. Should you have any questions, please call me at 768-8303.

Very truly yours,

J. Roger Morton Director Designate

APPROVED:

Michael D. Formby

Managing Director Designate