

Bill 89 (2020), FD1 Testimony

MISC. COM. 169

BUD

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 8:56 AM
Subject: Budget Testimony

Written Testimony

Name	Cheryl Soon
Phone	8087548358
Email	csoon8@yahoo.com
Meeting Date	03-03-2021
Council/PH Committee	Budget
Agenda Item	Bills 87 and 89
Your position on the matter	Support
Representing	Organization
Organization	Honolulu Rate Commission
Written Testimony	
Testimony Attachment	
Accept Terms and Agreement	1

IP: 192.168.200.67

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 11:39 PM
Subject: Budget Testimony

Written Testimony

Name Sharlene Chun-Lum
Phone 8083542434
Email sharstocks@yahoo.com
Meeting Date 03-03-2021
Council/PH Committee Budget
Agenda Item Bill 89, FD1
Your position on the matter Oppose
Representing Self
Organization

I submitted testimony on the original Bill 89 for the November 24, 2020 Budget meeting and my concerns are still the same.

Written Testimony

When one considers which city services are most important, transportation services are high on the list. As such, the City should consider keeping this service affordable, especially in this period of recovery from COVID-19, both health wise and economically. Ann Kobayashi once reminded us "Under Frank Fasi, seniors wrote the bus for free. " While the City may not be able to make it entirely free, it should strive to keep costs minimal.

On the other hand, the idea of having one rate for bus or rail is unrealistic. When rail is finally running, it will be extremely costly to operate. The City will only get deeper in debt if the rate matches the bus. Conversely, if the bus rates are raised to be closer to what rail needs to meet costs, we will undoubtedly see higher rates for bus riders. It might be better to make moving from rail to bus no extra charge, with Rail being a higher cost to begin with. If going from bus to rail, some surcharge will need to be added.

Testimony Attachment

Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, March 3, 2021 - 9:00 a.m. – City Council Chamber

UluPono Initiative supports Bill 89 (2020), FD1 Proposed CD1

Dear Chair Say and Members of the Committee:

My name is Micah Munekata, and I am the Director of Government Affairs at UluPono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-focused impact investment firm that strives to improve 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; and better management of freshwater and waste.

UluPono Initiative supports Bill 89 (2020) FD1 Proposed CD1, amending Chapter 2, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 1990, to introduce the City Payment Card as a means to pay fares, fees, and charges for the transportation services, and amending Chapter 13 to amend the fare structure for the City transit system.

Bill 89 improves current fare policy and structure by creating a fair, simpler, and more equitable system. Fare capping, over the use of monthly passes, allows community members who depend on transit but may not consistently have the means to pay for the pass upfront to access the same frequent ridership discounts as others. The updated fare table is welcome in streamlining program administration and implementation. We continue to be excited to see the inclusion of the new low-income rate category, although we do continue to worry about the budgetary limit to that particular rate category and that rate category alone. We commend the Rate Commission for its thoughtful report that helps the community to understand the legislation and its impacts; we also support their work to develop important elements in rate deliberations such as rate goals, principles, etc. Parts of these exist in Bill 89 but remain informal at this time.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

*Note: UluPono Initiative values this measure before the Council today and appreciates the opportunity to testify; however, we are unable to attend in person due to concerns around COVID-19. Thank you for your understanding.

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i

999 Bishop Street, Suite 1202 | Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813 | Ph: 808.544.8960 | Fax: 808.432.9695 | ulupono.com