



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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TESTIMONY TO THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU RATE COMMISSION

Proposal to Raise TheHandi-Van Rates

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) unanimously voted at its general meeting on January 18, 2018, to oppose the proposal by the Department of Transportation Services (DTS) to raise TheHandi-Van fare rate as a means to reduce ridership demand. Fares for The Bus are not set to reduce demand and in fact, are calibrating so as not to adversely affect ridership and impact revenue generation. The proposed rates for TheHandi-Van appear to be intended to do exactly the opposite.

DCAB also urges DTS to fully explore other proposals to reduce demand and/or improve service found in the Paratransit Growth Management Study, such as:

- 1) Increase use of the taxi voucher program;
- 2) Increased use of subsidies to non-profits to provide their own transportation for clients increasing the rate charged to social service agencies, thereby reducing demand on paratransit;
- 3) Modifying the rate charged to social service agencies; and
- 4) Modifying rates for non-mandatory rides outside the ADA transit corridor.

The above list is illustrative and not exhaustive.

As a matter of increasing the amount of fare collected, DCAB does not oppose raising the single Handi-Van fare rate to not exceed the single adult per trip fare rate for The Bus. However, we seek a payment system that allows for fares for those with low income. We hope the fare system acknowledges that TheHandi-Van riders do not have the option to obtain monthly or annual passes to control costs.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director