

Chee, Howard (Puni)

From: Joshua Perallon <joshuaperallon000@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 12:10 PM
To: Chee, Howard (Puni)
Cc: Joshua Perallon
Subject: Proposed bus rate hike

To Whom It May Concern:

Hello, my name is Joshua Perallon. I went to the rate commission meeting last night(March 10,2020). Today is March 11, 2020. The reason why I'm writing to you people is because I want to submit my written statement concerning the rate hike for the bus. I wanted to testify last night but I couldn't because I wasn't feeling well and I had a sore throat. My testimony is this: I feel that you people should let senior citizens ride for free on both the bus and the rail when it comes to operation. The reason why I say that is because I'm a frequent bus rider. And from time to time, I see youth and college students pay to get on the bus either by the bus bass and/or paying the full fare to get on the bus. When it comes to senior citizens, I sometimes witness the senior citizens complain to the bus drivers and asking them(bus drivers) how come they(senior citizens) have to pay more for riding the bus than youths and college students?

Also, please reinstate the Annual bus pass both for adults and youths. With the new proposed bus fare, I seen that the Annual Pass would be eliminated. Although, I do have a question about the Holo Card that is going to be rolled out very soon and I feel that the rate commission addressed it enough. My question is this: I do have a Holo Card however, what I want to know is how do I load money into my Holo Card? Anyways, I know that the rate commission meeting is next week Tuesday at 2:30pm in the same building. I just wanted to let you people know that I can't make it to the meeting next Tuesday because I work and I hope that you'll give my written testimony serious consideration. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,
Joshua Perallon



ALA MOANA-KAKA'AKO NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 11

NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 925 DILLINGHAM BOULEVARD, SUITE 160 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96817
PHONE (808) 768-3710 • FAX (808) 768-3711 • INTERNET <http://www.honolulu.gov/nco>

March 12, 2020

Cheryl D. Soon, Ph.D. FAICP
Chair
Rate Commission
City and County of Honolulu
650 South King Street, 3rd Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Soon:

Subject: Ala Moana-Kaka'ako Neighborhood Support for Proposed Transit Fare Structure

The Ala Moana-Kaka'ako Neighborhood Board No. 11 ("the Board") passed a resolution at its February 25, 2020 regular meeting in support of the Rate Commission recommendations for a fare structure and rates for The Bus, Rail, and HandiVan.

If you have any further questions regarding this matter, please contact our Neighborhood Board Assistant, Mr. K. Russell Ho at kho4@honolulu.gov or 768-3715. Thank you very much for your consideration and service to the community.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan Tam", is written over a horizontal line.

Ryan Tam
Chair, Ala Moana-Kaka'ako Neighborhood Board No. 11

Enclosure

cc: Mayor's Office [via e-mail]
Honolulu City Council [via e-mail]



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RESOLUTION REGARDING HONOLULU RATE COMMISSION PROPOSAL
FOR ADJUSTING BUS RATE FARES

WHEREAS, Honolulu voters established a Rate Commission in 2016 to recommend a fare structure and rates for The Bus, Rail, and HandiVan to the City Council; and

WHEREAS, the Rate Commission has met in open session for many months and adopted three goals: (1) Grow ridership on transit; (2) get people out of automobiles; (3) maximize the investments made in transit by the City; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has also established a farebox recovery policy so that at least 25-30 percent of the operating costs of the Bus are to be generated by fare revenue; and

WHEREAS, the Rate Commission has considered policies of simplicity and equity while taking advantage of the capabilities of the Holo card; and

WHEREAS, the Rate Commission has proposed fare adjustments (attached) to simplify the fare structure, improve the ratio between categories; and remove financial disincentives for people who do not live along major corridors or who do not have job or health security; and now therefore;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Ala Moana-Kaka'ako Neighborhood Board No. 11 supports the Rate Commission recommendations; and further

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Mayor's office and the City Council.

ADOPTED by the Ala Moana-Kaka'ako Neighborhood Board No. 11 at its regular meeting on Tuesday, February 25, 2020, by a vote of 6-0-3.



RYAN TAM
Chair

CATEGORY	CURRENT FARE	PROPOSED FARE *
ADULTS (ages 18-64)	Single Ride \$2.75 Daily Pass: \$5.50 Monthly Pass \$70.00 Annual Pass \$770.00	Single Ride \$ 3.00 Daily Cap of \$ 7.50 Monthly Cap of \$ 80.00 Eliminates Annual Pass in this category
YOUTH (ages 5-17 plus 18 & 19 if still in high school)	Single Ride \$1.25 Daily Pass: \$2.50 Monthly Pass \$35.00 Annual Pass \$385.00	Single Ride \$ 1.50 Daily Cap of \$ 3.75 Monthly Cap of \$ 40.00 Eliminates Annual Pass in this category
SENIOR (65+) AND DISABLED OR HOLDING MEDICARE CARD	Single Ride \$ 1.00 Daily Pass: \$2.00 Monthly Pass \$6.00 Annual Pass \$35.00	Single Ride \$1.25 Daily Cap \$ 3.00 Monthly Cap \$ 20.00 Annual Cap \$ 60.00
LOW INCOME (30% Area Median Income, or AMI) Pilot program limit of 2,000	This category does not currently exist. There is a subsidy program (family of four capped at \$36,450 combined income) that <u>reduces</u> the adult monthly pass by \$10 and the youth monthly pass by \$6.50	Single Ride \$1.00 Daily Cap \$2.50 Monthly Cap \$20.00 Annual Cap \$ 60.00

*There would be no charge for transfers if taken within two hours.

Chee, Howard (Puni)

From: J. David Beutel <neighbor@getsu.com>
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2020 2:34 AM
To: Chee, Howard (Puni)
Subject: rate commission testimony for short distance discount

Dear Rate Commission:

Thank you for listening to my suggestion and asking lots of questions about it at your meeting on March 10. Since you continued that meeting to this week, I am taking the opportunity to submit my suggestion in writing. I hope this will make it more understandable.

I lived in Tokyo for 6 years, and like most people there, rode the trains and buses all the time, and didn't even own a car. Of course, like most places, the fares in Japan are generally based on distance. That required me to figure out the fare in advance and buy a paper ticket with cash, until they introduced stored value cards like Suica, which are much easier to use. Next, I have lived in Honolulu for 16 years, and do own a car here, but ride the bus and Biki occasionally, and usually ride my bicycle to work.

Your proposed fare scheme is a flat rate, regardless of distance, but leveraging the Holo card to provide caps, instead of using passes. The flat rate has the advantages of simplicity and consistency with the current fare scheme. Your proposed caps, providing discounts for frequent riders, are:

- daily
- monthly
- annual (for some categories)
- 2-hour (no charge for transfers)

I suggest a way to provide a discount for certain short trips, which is compatible with your proposed fare scheme. It is to not charge for additional trips within a certain distance, e.g., 5 miles, for the rest of the day (or 24 hours, whichever way your daily cap works). This could be thought of as a "5-mile cap". However, a single trip is at the regular fare. To implement your 2-hour cap, the Holo card will need to save the timestamp of the most recent payment. To also implement the 5-mile cap, it would just need to save the geotag of the most recent payment (along with the timestamp), and not charge for any trips starting within 5 miles of that geotag (on the same day), or within 2 hours. I do not know of any transit system with such a 5-mile cap, but I also do not know of any with a flat rate like The Bus.

This 5-mile cap would promote ridership by those like me, among the hundreds of thousands of residents of Honolulu's primary urban center, and other towns, who do not ride the bus frequently enough to benefit from the other caps. It would make The Bus more competitive for occasional use on short trips by a couple or small group, compared to Uber, Lyft, or parking fees, which do not charge per passenger. With the flat rate, when I ride The Bus a short distance, I feel like I am not getting the most out of my money. I would ride The Bus more often with this 5-mile cap, and I think it would broaden the base of support to more casual riders for The Bus and rail. I hope you will consider implementing it.

Yours truly,
J. David Beutel

Chee, Howard (Puni)

From: LKI <lkishiki@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 5, 2020 4:25 PM
To: Chee, Howard (Puni)
Subject: Proposed bus fare increase

Please do not increase bus fare for senior citizens. We are on fixed income. Our Social security incomd does not keep up with inflation.

Mahalo!

Leila Ishiki

Chee, Howard (Puni)

From: Joseph Kaleiwohi <joekaleiwohi@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 12:07 PM
To: Chee, Howard (Puni)
Subject: Bus Fare Increases

Further subsidizing is necessary to keep the fare cost to bus passengers down.

The suggested cost increases are ridiculous.

The Honolulu Public Transport system is meant to keep the island running smoothly, not to turn a profit, and perhaps not to break even.

COVid19 has cast a bright light onto Hawaii's level of poverty. Workers can barely afford the bus now, and heaven knows what public transport will cost once the train begins service.

I urge you not to support TheBus fare increases.