
A BILL FOR AN ACT

APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR A PILOT PROJECT TO INCREASE BUS
RIDERSHIP.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that ridership on The Bus
2 has trended downward since a high in 1994 of 77,338,147
3 passengers. While the decrease in ridership could be attributed
4 to any number of factors, including a strike and incremental
5 fare increases since 1979, a decrease in ridership is
6 unquestioned.

7 The legislature also finds that, as a mass transit option,
8 public buses have served to reduce the amount of traffic on
9 state highways. The City and County of Honolulu's Public
10 Transit Department estimated that one bus, which can accommodate
11 50 to 70 passengers at a time, removes 40 to 70 cars from the
12 road because the passengers are not driving cars.

13 As a continuing part of the solution to deal with traffic
14 problems on state highways, increasing bus ridership can only
15 help with that situation. Accordingly, the purpose of this Act
16 is to establish a pilot project that will provide funding for



1 free bus ridership as a means to increase ridership on existing
2 public bus services.

3 SECTION 2. There shall be established a pilot project that
4 will provide funding to counties for free bus ridership as a
5 means to increase bus ridership on existing public bus services.
6 In order for a county to qualify for funding under this project,
7 the county must have existing public bus transit services in
8 existence at the time of the implementation of this Act.

9 SECTION 3. As an additional requirement to qualifying for
10 funding under this Act, a county must also, at a minimum, impose
11 a qualification requirement for individuals seeking to
12 participate in the pilot project that calls for presentment of a
13 state identification card or a state driver's license upon
14 application for participation in the pilot project. A county
15 may impose additional legal criteria for participation in the
16 pilot project.

17 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$_____ or so much
19 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 for the
20 implementation of a pilot project that will offer free bus
21 ridership for 6 months.

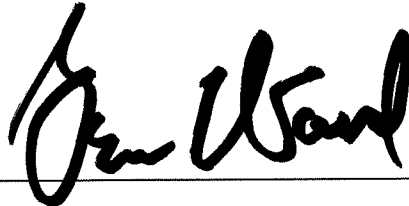


1 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
2 transportation for the purposes of this Act.

3 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2008.

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INTRODUCED BY:



Karen Curran



John M. Pappas



Della A. Belatti



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JAN 11 2008



Report Title:

Bus ridership; pilot program

Description:

Appropriates funds for a pilot program to encourage ridership on buses by offering free ridership for 6 months.

