



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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April 13, 2023

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Senate Concurrent Resolution 7 – Urging the City and County of Honolulu to Improve Access of TheBus in Oahu's Rural Communities

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports and offers comment on Senate Concurrent Resolution 7 – Urging the City and County of Honolulu to Improve Access of TheBus in Oahu's Rural Communities.

Many people with disabilities rely on accessible public transit to participate in education, employment, health care, housing, and community life. Lack of accessible transportation is a significant barrier to community participation for many people with disabilities. Living in a rural area introduces additional transportation barriers, such as longer travel distances and limited public transit options. This resolution focuses on improving public transit in Oahu's rural communities. DCAB respectfully offers comment to expand the intent of this resolution to urge all counties to improve public transit, including accessible public transit, in Hawaii's rural communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

KIRBY L. SHAW
Executive Director

SCR-7

Submitted on: 4/11/2023 8:04:15 PM

Testimony for TRN on 4/13/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynette Cruz	Malama Makua	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Great bill! Totally support.

Chair Chris Todd
Vice Chair Darius Kila

House Committee on Transportation

Thursday, April 13, 2023
10:00 AM

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SCR7 URGING THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO IMPROVE ACCESS OF THEBUS IN OAHU'S RURAL COMMUNITIES

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Kila, Members of the House Committee on Transportation,

My name is Jun Shin. I am a recent graduate of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and a bus rider. I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of **SCR7**, Urging the City and County of Honolulu to Improve Access of TheBus in Oahu's Rural Communities.

I love TheBus and have used it for most, if not all of my transportation needs since I was a Freshman at the UH Mānoa. As I transition to being a full-time worker, it will most likely remain that way. For many, many working people and students who cannot afford to buy and maintain a car or don't have anybody in their networks that has a car, the public bus system remains a relatively affordable and accessible form of transportation to go to work, school, shopping, picking up kids, having fun, etc. It's environmentally friendly too, especially since our buses have started to go electric.

The reason I say it is relatively affordable and accessible is the concern I have that under our current system, costs of using TheBus will increase like it did when there was a fare increase in 2022. That's only going to make it tougher on the pockets of working people and even students, especially as our family/personal budgets grow further constrained with the cost of living crisis. Decision makers should follow other municipalities/states and work to implement free public transportation.

Accessibility wise, whether it's due to staffing shortages or other issues, TheBus's operations have changed since the pandemic. Even living and spending time in parts of Honolulu where buses are supposed to be running frequently, it's apparent that the public bus system is struggling. Buses are constantly late and I don't know if this is just my personal perception, but it doesn't seem like there are enough buses to meet demand, and that results in buses filling up to the brim at times. If it's a noticeable and inconvenient problem here in town, it's no doubt an even more serious issue in rural communities that are not getting enough resources as is. Please **PASS Senate Concurrent Resolution 7** out of your committee and address this urgent transportation issue.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Jun Shin,
State House District 23 | State Senate District 12
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Email: junshinbusiness729@gmail.com

SCR-7

Submitted on: 4/11/2023 5:06:50 PM

Testimony for TRN on 4/13/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaili Swan	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I stand in support of the SCR 7 Beacuse I ride the bus to go out the in the community everyday please pass this SCR7 thank you.