



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543
March 21, 2023

The Honorable Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
and
The Honorable Senator Chris Lee, Chair
Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts
The Thirty-Second Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senator San Buenaventura, Senator Lee, and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: HB415 HD2 Making an Appropriation to Implement the Recommendations of the Task Force on Mobility Management, Established Pursuant to Act 214, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013.

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **Supports with Comments HB415 HD2**, which makes an appropriation to the department of health to implement the recommendations of the statewide mobility management task force, established pursuant to Act 214, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2013. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD2)

The Council supports the intent of this measure, but we believe the Department of Transportation is better suited to implement the recommendations made by the task force on mobility management. The DoT is the department that would be most effective as their department houses the policies and partnerships needed to improve mobility conditions. We do recommend the Aging and Disability Resource Center and other stakeholder groups are consulted regarding new mobility practices but should not be the implementors.

For any more substantive changes, we defer to the Aging and Disability Resource Center. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of HB415 HD2**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daintry Bartoldus".

Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator



TESTIMONY BY:

EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
DREANALEE K. KALILI
TAMMY L. LEE
ROBIN K. SHISHIDO
JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

March 21, 2023
3:05 P.M.

State Capitol, Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

H.B. 415 HD 2
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF
THE TASK FORCE ON MOBILITY MANAGEMENT, ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO
ACT 214, SESSION LAWS OF HAWAII 2013

Senate Committees on Health and Human Services &
Transportation and Culture and the Arts

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports the intent** of this bill which makes an appropriation to the Department of Health (DOH) to implement the recommendations of the statewide Mobility Management Task Force, established pursuant to Act 214, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013. However, the DOT has the following comments.

The DOT believes that managing the appropriations and implementing the recommendations of the task force is more befitting to the DOT than the DOH.

All Counties have a mobility management program that provides services beyond their fixed route services. The appropriated funds through the DOT will support and enhance these current services.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

1010 Richards Street, Room 118 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V) • TTY (808) 586-8162 • Fax (808) 586-8129

March 21, 2023

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AND TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS

House Bill 415 HD2 – Making an Appropriation to Implement the Recommendations of
the Task Force on Mobility Management, Established Pursuant to Act 214, Session
Laws of Hawaii 2013

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports House Bill 415 HD2 – Making an Appropriation to Implement the Recommendations of the Task Force on Mobility Management, Established Pursuant to Act 214, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013. This bill would make an appropriation to the department of health to implement the recommendations of the statewide mobility management task force, established pursuant to Act 214, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013.

Reliable transportation is essential for people with disabilities to be independent, have an active lifestyle, and access necessary services such as medical care. Something as simple as obtaining accessible transportation to a doctor's appointment can be crucial for getting medications and treatment. Implementation of mobility management strategies will improve the delivery of coordinated transportation services and provide people with disabilities access to the most suitable and appropriate transportation options.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

KIRBY L. SHAW
Executive Director



1001 Bishop Street | Suite 625 | Honolulu, HI 96813-2830
1-866-295-7282 | Fax: 808-536-2882
aarp.org/hi | aarphi@aarp.org | twitter.com/AARPHawaii
facebook.com/AARPHawaii

The State Legislature
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts
Tuesday, March 21, 2023
Conference Room 224
3:05 p.m.

TO: The Honorable Joy San Buenaventura, Chair
The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair
RE: Support for H.B. 415, HD2 Relating to Mobility Management

Aloha Co-Chairs San Buenaventura and Lee, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Keali'i Lopez and I am the State Director for AARP Hawai'i. AARP is a nonpartisan, social impact organization that advocates for individuals age 50 and older. We have a membership of nearly 38 million nationwide and nearly 140,000 in Hawaii. We advocate at the state and federal level for the issues that matter most to older adults and their families, including transportation.

AARP supports H.B. 415 HD2 to develop and establish a mobility management program that support the counties' growing transportation needs for riders with limited mobility, and/or disabilities including kupuna who need a variety of transportation options. "Mobility management is an integrated strategic approach in coordinating a full range of mobility services in communities and transcends beyond the fixed-route transit services (i.e. public bus system). While no two mobility programs look alike, a robust program typically comprises a multiagency partnership which includes social service agencies, senior programs, non-emergency medical providers and taxi companies; use of information technology systems in real time, and a one-stop travel information and trip planning systems."¹

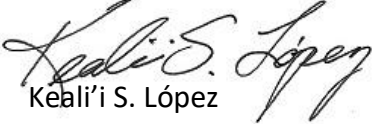
While the four counties in Hawaii have their respective mobility management programs, the state can further assist them by leveraging federal funds, establishing a statewide purchasing cooperative to procure new vehicles, technologies and equipment and data-sharing across a network of different transportation providers.

It is paramount that Hawaii has a comprehensive transportation system work that can offer

consumers efficient, safe, and affordable transportation options and gives them full access to the economic, health and social aspects of their communities.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in support for **H.B. 415, HD2**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keali'i S. López". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "K".

Keali'i S. López
State Director

¹ Statewide Mobility Management Report to the Twenty-Ninth Legislature -2015, Hawaii Department of Health, Executive Office on Aging.

Testimony of Donald Sakamoto Before the Committees on Health and Human Services (HHS) and Transportation, Culture, and Arts (TCA), Hawaii State Senate Thirty-second Legislature, regular session of 2023 March 21, 2023, 3:05 PM, hearing on HB415 H.D.2

Good afternoon chairs, vice chairs, and members. I am Donald Sakamoto, a member of the National Federation of the Blind of Hawaii, in full support of HB415 H.D.2.

This is a very important bill for those who are elderly and disabled especially, for those who are living on our neighbor islands. A lot of these individuals should be able to live at home with the supports they need so that they can participate in communities that value their contributions especially in rural communities, many residents are without family members nearby to provide transportation and are too frail or disabled to access public transit. Furthermore, this bill means hope for better opportunities to enable the disabled and elderly people to improve their daily lives.

The bill truly acknowledges the need for a Mobility Management Plan to address the county elderly and disabled island residents who are seeking the best help with their transportation needs. In fact, The bill does include in having one mobility manager in each of the counties of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui; one statewide outreach position; and one statewide coordinator to ensure that all of the counties are working together for the betterment of the elderly and disabled residents. The time is to prepare in having better and fair transportation services now, and not later on. Famous “By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail” by Benjamin Franklin.

Mahalo for considering HB415 H.D.2, and I truly urge you all to please support to have this bill to proceed on.

HB-415-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2023 9:08:54 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/21/2023 3:05:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Louis Erteschik | Testifying for Hawaii Disability Rights Center | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

In support.



**Maui Metropolitan
Planning Organization**

200 South High Street
Wailuku, HI 96793
www.mauiμπο.org

March 17, 2023

Pam Eaton
Maui MPO Executive Director
On behalf of the Maui MPO Policy Board

Before the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services, and
Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and Arts

March 21, 2023 at 3:05 p.m.
Conference Room 224

**HB 415, H.D. 2 MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF
THE TASK FORCE ON MOBILITY MANAGEMENT, ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO ACT 214,
SESSION LAWS OF HAWAII 2013**

Honorable, Joy A. Buenaventura Chair
Honorable Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair
Senate Committees on Health and Human Services, and
Transportation and Culture and Arts

The Maui Metropolitan Planning Organization **supports HB415 HD2**. This measure will increase access to transportation services for elders and individuals with disabilities, especially those in rural areas. The state can further assist the community by leveraging federal funds, establishing a statewide purchasing cooperative to procure new vehicles, technologies and equipment and data-sharing across a network of different transportation providers. It is paramount that Hawaii has a comprehensive transportation network that can offer the underrepresented population of elders and individuals with disabilities efficient, safe, and affordable transportation options and gives them full access to the economic, health and social aspects of their communities. The Maui Metropolitan Planning Organization is in **support** of HB 415 HD2.

Sincerely,

Pam Eaton

Pam Eaton
Executive Director, Maui MPO

Testimony of James Gashel

Submitted for National Federation of the Blind of Hawaii

Committee on Health and Human Services (HHS), and

Committee on transportation Culture and the Arts (TCA)

Hawaii State Senate

Thirty-second Legislature, regular session of 2023

March 21, 2023, 3:05 PM, hearing on HB415, H.D. 2

Good afternoon chair, vice chair, and members. I am James Gashel, representing National Federation of the Blind (NFB) of Hawaii, proudly supporting HB415, H.D. 2 on behalf of people with transportation needs due to age or disability. Thank you for scheduling this hearing.

Driving a car is something most people basically take for granted. It may be hard to imagine what life would be like if you couldn't drive, but that's the daily reality for many of our Kupuna, those of us who are blind of any age, and for many others with disabilities.

HB415 asks the state to fund positions to help plan and coordinate transportation services for people who need public transportation as an essential service. This is intended to address the many instances of spotty or nonexistent transportation services, especially in our more rural counties. The need has been documented by a task force on mobility management within the Department of Health and reported to the Legislature on January 30, 2015.

The needs identified in that report are as real and compelling as they were when the task force was in effect. These needs will not be resolved by doing nothing. Therefore, the National Federation of the Blind of Hawaii respectfully requests that the identified positions in the Department of Health be funded.

Mahalo for allowing this bill to proceed.



Testimony of the Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization

Senate Committees on Health and Human Services and Transportation and Culture and the Arts

**03/21/23 3:05 PM
CR 224 & Videoconference**

HB 415 HD 2

**MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TASK FORCE
ON MOBILITY MANAGEMENT, ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO ACT 214, SESSION LAWS OF
HAWAII 2013.**

The Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization (OahuMPO) **supports Measure HB415 HD2.**

The OahuMPO is the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) on the island of Oahu responsible for carrying out a multimodal transportation planning process, including the development of a long-range (25-year horizon) metropolitan transportation plan, referred to as the Oahu Regional Transportation Plan (ORTP) that encourages and promotes a safe and efficient transportation system to serve the mobility needs of people and freight (including walkways, bicycles, and transit), fosters economic growth and development, and takes into consideration resiliency needs, while minimizing fuel consumption and air pollution ([23 CFR 450.300](#)).

The purpose of HB415 HD2 is to make appropriations to the department of health to implement recommendations to the statewide mobility management task force, established pursuant to Act 214, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013. Act 214, Session Laws of Hawaii (Act 214) established a task force on mobility management within the department of health which is tasked with providing recommendations on establishing transportation framework to assist elders and individuals with disabilities with transportation needs, statewide. This has enabled users to better access transportation services and remain within their respective communities.

We find that HB415 HD2 supports OahuMPO's goals of: 1) increasing the availability of active transportation, especially regarding ADA-accessibility, 2) promoting a more equitable transportation system, and 3) developing a more integrated transportation for all users.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

Testimony of Hoku Burrows

Committee on Health and Human Services (HHS)

Committee on Transportation, Culture, and Arts (TCA)

Thirty-second Legislature, regular session of 2023

March 21, 2023, 3:05 PM, hearing on HB415 H.D.2

Good afternoon chairs, vice chairs, and members, my name is Hoku Burrows, a member of the National Federation of the Blind of Hawaii, in full support of HB415 H.D.2.

As a local blind kupuna, I rely completely on public transportation to see doctors, go to the grocery store, attend my church and other life events to stay engaged in my local community. Growing up on Molokai, this was not an option for me. It is important to ensure my peers throughout the state who are elderly and disabled like myself, have access to public transportation within their community. Isolation without public transportation becomes a serious disability in itself, removing us from important life activities.

I stand in strong support of the testimony submitted by the National Federation of the Blind of Hawai'i.

Mahalo nui loa for considering our need for this bill to pass into law.

Testimony of Katie Keim

Committee on Health and Human Services (HHS)

Committee on Transportation, Culture, and Arts (TCA)

Thirty-second Legislature, regular session of 2023

March 21, 2023, 3:05 PM, hearing on HB415 H.D.2

Good afternoon chairs, vice chairs, and members, my name is Katie Keim, a member and leader in the National Federation of the Blind of Hawaii, fully supporting HB415 H.D.2.

For 28 years I have been disabled, next year i will become one of our local kupuna. 28 years ago, I overnight became fully reliant on public transportation due to suddenly becoming blind. Transportation is a top priority ensuring we do not become isolated, depressed, dependent on others, and unwell. Transportation whether by public access or family and friends, is not always affordable or available to get to work, doctors' visits, shopping, social engagements, volunteer activities like my Rotary Club community service events and participation in mentoring blind and low vision individuals of all ages, especially our keki and their parents.

HB415 H.D.2 is a needed support statewide, enabling our kupuna and disabled individuals to stay active and involved, rather than becoming isolated and reliant on expensive transportation for needed access to critical life saving appointments. Let alone equally as important are community events that keep us involved as productive citizens each of us offering time and energy with a variety of interests and talents, giving back to our community at large.

I stand in full support of the testimony submitted by the NFB of Hawai'i.

Mahalo nui loa for considering passing this bill into law.

Testimony of Virgil Stinnett

Committee on Health and Human Services (HHS)

Committee on Transportation, Culture, and Arts (TCA)

Thirty-second Legislature, regular session of 2023

March 21, 2023, 3:05 PM, hearing on HB415 H.D.2

Good afternoon chairs, vice chairs, and members, my name is Virgil Stinnett, the president of the National Federation of the Blind of Hawaii, fully supporting HB415 H.D.2

As a local blind businessman in contract with our federal Government, I employ about 70 local individuals to comply and serve the requirements of my contract. Without public transportation I would not be able to be gainfully employed, a costly impact on taxes, merely because I could not travel to my worksite. I stand in strong support of the testimony submitted by the National Federation of the Blind of Hawai'i.

Mahalo and aloha for seriously considering our need for this bill to pass into law.

LATE

HB-415-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 12:46:37 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/21/2023 3:05:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Tabatha Mitchell | Individual | Support | In Person |

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

Thank you for scheduling this hearing on HB415 H.D.2. It is very important for disabled people that do not drive.

HB415 asks the state to fund positions to help plan and coordinate transportation services for people who need public transportation as an essential service.

It is very easy to think that people that don't drive can manage in other ways. Blind people cannot drive. They rely on public transportation. No one can afford to Uber & Lyft and take cabs everywhere they need to go. When you CAN drive, you just don't think about these things in this context.

My youngest daughter is blind. She is learning to ride the bus and to navigate air travel independently. She will be off to college next year. She was planning a visit to the University of Hawaii campus in Hilo to tour the campus & to visit her big sister that is currently a UHH student. We were all shocked to discover that there is no public transportation bus service on the Big Island. This was very disheartening for my daughter that cannot drive. This reality eliminated UHHilo as an option for her higher education - because she can't drive and she wants the independence of being able to get out & about.

It has been frustrating & heartbreaking to watch our little environmentalist that happens to be blind realize that lack of transportation on our other islands will hold her back. She has had to accept that her long range goal of giving back to the islands she loves through regenerative farming isn't conducive on Big Island; nor is it financially possible on Oahu.

Because there is no public transportation on Big Island - where she could potentially afford to buy farm land - she will take her talents - that were acquired here in our great public school natural resource programs - and she will apply them somewhere else where she has access to public transportation. Although Da Bus system is great on Oahu, she knows she can't afford to come out of college and buy farm land on Oahu.

That is sad. For us. And for Hawaii.

Especially considering that Hawaii already has one of the best bus systems in the nation. Please recognize the importance of HB415 H.D.2 and support the funding of positions. Our disabled

citizens should not be forced to move off-island or be limited to Oahu just to have mobility independence.