



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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March 1, 2024

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senate Bill 3002 – 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 Senate Bill 3002 – Making an Appropriation to Implement the Recommendations of the Task Force on Mobility Management, Established Pursuant to Act 214, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013.

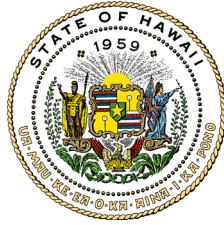
This bill makes an appropriation to the Department of Transportation to implement the recommendations of the Statewide Mobility Management Task Force, established pursuant to Act 214, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, in consultation with the Aging and Disability Resource Center of the Executive Office on Aging and other stakeholder groups.

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 considering our position.

Respectfully submitted,

KIRBY L. SHAW
Executive Director



JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII

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KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
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Testimony in SUPPORT of SB3002
RELATING TO LONG-TERM CARE

SENATOR DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, CHAIR
SENATOR SHARON Y. MORIWAKI, VICE CHAIR
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Testimony of Caroline Cadirao
Director, Executive Office on Aging
Attached Agency to the Department of Health

Decision Making: Friday, March 1, 2024, 9:55 A.M., Conference Room 211

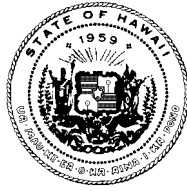
- 1 **EOA Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department of
- 2 Health (DOH) supports the intent of this measure.
- 3 **Fiscal Implications:** Appropriates funds to the Department of Transportation. Exceeds the
- 4 general fund expenditure ceiling.
- 5 **Purpose and Justification:** Makes an appropriation to the Department of Transportation to
- 6 implement the recommendations of the statewide Mobility Management Task Force,
- 7 established pursuant to Act 214, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2013, in consultation with the Aging
- 8 and Disability Resource Center of the Executive Office on Aging and other stakeholder groups.

1 Frail elders and individuals with disabilities, particularly those in rural communities, may have
2 difficulty in accessing transportation for medical appointments, shopping, visits to family and
3 friends, and other necessary activities. Establishing a Mobility Management program and
4 Mobility Center to assist individuals to better access transportation resources would enable frail
5 elders and individuals with disabilities to live independently, participate in their community,
6 and provide a quality of life.

7 **Recommendation:** EOA supports the intent of this measure and defers to the Department of
8 Transportation on development and implementation.

9 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA
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TRISTA SPEER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

March 1, 2024

LATE

TO: The Honorable Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways & Means

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 3002 – RELATING TO MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO IMPLEMENT THE
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TASK FORCE ON MOBILITY MANAGEMENT,
ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO ACT 214, SESSION LAWS OF HAWAII 2013**

Hearing: March 1, 2024, 9:55 a.m.
Conference Room 211, State Capitol & Video Conference

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this bill and defers to the Executive Office on Aging and the Department of Transportation on implementation and resource needs. DHS respectfully requests the appropriation not to replace or reduce budget priorities identified in the executive budget.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill is to make an appropriation to the Department of Transportation to implement the recommendations of the statewide Mobility Management Task Force, established pursuant to Act 214, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, in consultation with the Aging and Disability Resource Center of the Executive Office on Aging and other stakeholder groups. Declares that the general fund expenditure ceiling is exceeded.

The Department of Human Services agrees that Hawaii's residents, including elders and those with disabilities, should be able to live at home with the necessary community supports they need, including accessible transportation in rural areas.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

SB-3002

Submitted on: 2/28/2024 3:42:38 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/1/2024 9:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ANNETTE TASHIRO	Testifying for State Rehabilitation Council	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony of Annette Chiyo Tashiro

Committee on Ways and Means

Hawaii State Senate

Thirty-second Legislature, regular session of 2024

March 1, 2024, 9:55 AM, hearing on SB3002

Good Morning, Chair, Vice Chair, and Members: I am Annette Chiyo Tashiro, Chair of the State Rehabilitation Council. I strongly support SB 3002 needed for people who have accessible transportation needs due to disabilities, disabling conditions, and aging which limits their independent transportation options. Thank you for scheduling this hearing.



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The State Legislature
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Friday, March 1, 2024
Conference Room 211
9:55 a.m.

TO: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
FROM: Keali'i Lopez, State Director, AARP Hawaii
RE: Support for S.B. 3002 Relating to Mobility Management

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee:

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 Hawaii supports S.B 3002 which appropriates funds to implement the recommendations of the statewide Mobility Management Task Force and 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 **SB 3002**.

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

SB-3002

Submitted on: 2/28/2024 7:21:25 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/1/2024 9:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joel Cho	Testifying for National Federation of the Blind of Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and members of the Ways and Means Committee,

My name is Joel Cho and I strongly support SB3002 because this bill is aimed at improving paratransit services for those living on the neighbor islands who need this vital service so that they can travel for employment, medical appointments, complete their daily task and errands, and to live their best lives with independence and dignity.

I grew up on the Big Island and now live on Maui and so I know firsthand what it is like to have to navigate through various agencies just to find a ride and then forced to schedule your life around a very limited window of time to catch a ride that may or may not always show up. Today for example, the ride that I scheduled yesterday for pick up today at 2:30pm was overbooked and had an estimated time of arrival of being 90 minutes late, I had an appointment within the hour that I could not reschedule and so had to cancel the ride and pay \$38 out of pocket for a 7 mile Uber ride. I wish I could say that this was an isolated incident that rarely happens to anybody else, but unfortunately I can't.

Paratransit services on both islands is in very sore need of more help and there is a desperate need for much better coordination of their services to their clients.

Voting in favor of this bill will help a lot to reach the goal of providing much better transportation services to those who need them and also those who may need them someday.



Testimony of the Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization

Committee on Ways and Means

March 1, 2024 at 9:55AM

Conference Room 211

SB 3002

Making an appropriation to implement the recommendations of the Task Force on Mobility Management, established pursuant to Act 214, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Committee Members,

The Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization (OahuMPO) **supports SB 3002**, which would make an appropriation to the Department of Transportation to implement the recommendations of the statewide Mobility Management Task Force, established pursuant to Act 214, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2013, in consultation with the Aging and Disability Resource Center of the Executive Office on Aging and other stakeholder groups, and declares that the general fund expenditure ceiling is exceeded.

This bill is consistent with several goals of the Oahu Regional Transportation Plan including support active and public transportation, promote an equitable transportation system, and improve air quality and protect environmental and cultural assets.¹ Providing an appropriation to the Department of Transportation to implement the recommendations of the statewide Mobility Management Task Force will enable the resources, coordination, and leadership to move transportation projects forward that would assist elders and/or those with disabilities improve their mobility options.

This bill is important because DBEDT projects rapid growth among the population group aged 75 years and over. In 2016, more than a half of the elderly population (aged 65 years and over) was in the 65-74 age range while 15.6% was in "85 and over".² By 2045, the share of the population aged 65-74 is projected to decrease to 38.4% of total elderly population while the population aged 85 years and over is projected to increase its share to 27.4%.³ Looking at the population as a whole, residents aged 65 years and older are expected to make up almost one in four residents (23.8%).⁴

¹ https://oahumpo.org/?wpfb_dl=2215

² [Microsoft Word - 2045-long-range-forecasts \(hawaii.gov\)](#)

³ IBID.

⁴ IBID.

Of specific interest is the bill's suggested actions for use of appropriated funds: "Fund local mobility projects identified by the county as priority strategies" and "Support a permanent funding source in any future state or local tax initiative for human service transportation." There are currently no dedicated State funding sources (with the exception of the portion of the GET that goes to fund the construction of the rail), permanent or otherwise to fund transportation projects that would support making it easier and safer for the elder and/or disabled residents to get around via walk, roll, bike, and/or transit. However, more and more State legislatures are providing funding to support greater mobility for their residents, particularly funding for transit.

Some examples of other State's budgets that include funding for their transit systems include:

1. California's FY 2023-2024 State budget provided \$5.1 billion in transit funding.⁵
2. New York's FY 2023-2024 State budget provided \$300 million in one-time state aid for the Metropolitan Transportation Agency, \$65 million to reduce a proposed fare increase from 5.5% to 4%, \$35 million to expand subway service frequency enhancements, and \$15 million to fund a zero-fare bus pilot program that will provide each of the five New York City boroughs with a free bus route.⁶ This is being funded by adjusting the Payroll Mobility Tax for the largest businesses within New York City to 0.6%, which they estimate will generate \$1.1 billion in revenue.⁷
3. Massachusetts' Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) received \$186 million from the State's new tax on millionaires.⁸ Governor Healy has proposed increasing the State's total support for the MBTA by more than \$300 million.⁹
4. Governor Shapiro of Pennsylvania announced a plan to increase the share of the state sales tax that is dedicated to transit, estimating a \$282 million increase in funding for transit systems next year.¹⁰

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

⁵ [With Public Transit on the Brink, Some States Prepare to Boost Funding \(governing.com\)](#)

⁶ [Speaker's Press Releases | New York State Assembly \(nyassembly.gov\)](#)

⁷ IBID.

⁸ <https://www.governing.com/transportation/what-the-new-wealth-tax-in-massachusetts-is-paying-for>

⁹ [With Public Transit on the Brink, Some States Prepare to Boost Funding \(governing.com\)](#)

¹⁰ <https://www.governor.pa.gov/newsroom/governor-shapiro-to-propose-major-increase-in-state-funding-for-public-transit-in-2024-25-budget/>

growth and development, and takes into consideration resiliency needs, while minimizing fuel consumption and air pollution ([23 CFR 450.300](#)).

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

SB-3002

Submitted on: 2/29/2024 8:58:45 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/1/2024 9:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
james gashel	Testifying for National Federation of the Blind of Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony of James Gashel
Submitted for National Federation of the Blind of Hawaii
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)
Hawaii State Senate
Thirty-second Legislature, regular session of 2024
March 1, 2024, 9:55 AM, hearing on SB3002

Good morning chair, vice chair, and members. I am James Gashel, representing National Federation of the Blind (NFB) of Hawaii, proudly supporting SB3002, 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 expect to be able to do and often 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.

SB3002 asks the state to fund 5 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 filed its final report. These needs will not be resolved by doing nothing. Therefore, the National Federation of the Blind of Hawaii respectfully requests that the identified positions be established and funded in the Department of Transportation. Three of these positions are designated in the bill to serve the counties of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui.

Mahalo for considering this bill and moving it along toward passage in this session.

SB-3002

Submitted on: 2/28/2024 3:30:32 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/1/2024 9:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Clifford Miyashiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I , Clifford Miyashiro, am requesting approval for SB3002,

thank you very much

Testimony of Donald Sakamoto

Before the Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)
Hawaii State Senate
Thirty-second Legislature, regular session of 2024
March 1, 2024, 9:55 AM, hearing on SB3002

Good morning chair, vice chair, and members. I am Donald Sakamoto, I strongly support SB3002, because the time is now to prepare to address the needs for all the people with transportation needs due to their age or disability. Thank you for scheduling this important hearing.

In 2013 through 2014 I had the privilege to participate in the state's mobility management task force meetings with the executive Office of aging, and many others ranging from county transportation representatives, state legislative representatives, and countless others. Furthermore, after the report was done, it was introduced in the legislative session on January 30, 2015 as bill SB297 however, it didn't proceed on or had the opportunity to be reintroduced in 2016.

Many of our Kupuna, and those of us who are blind at any age or for those others with different disabilities who especially live on the neighbor islands experience difficulties in accessing public transportation in rural areas, and who don't have family members or others to assist them with their transportation needs.

SB3002 asks the state to fund 5 positions to help plan and coordinate transportation services for people who need public transportation as an essential service. This bill is truly over due to have in place to address the baby boomers and those with disabilities that experience limited or nonexistent transportation services.

I am requesting that the identified positions that were listed in SB3002 be established and funded in the Department of Transportation, and that the three of these positions will serve the counties of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui to help with the needs for our Kupuna and disabled.

Mahalo for considering SB3002 and I urge you all to do the right thing and let's "Go For Broke" and move this bill forward for this session.

SB-3002

Submitted on: 2/28/2024 10:47:22 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/1/2024 9:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tabatha Mitchell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Hawaii State Senate

hearing on SB3002

Aloha chair, vice chair, and members. I am a parent of a blind child that is heading off to college. I strongly support SB3002, because it is much needed for people with transportation needs because they cannot drive.

My daughter will never drive.

She has been blind from birth thanks to winning the genetic lottery and receiving two mutated genes that resulted in her having a rare blinding genetic disorder. You may not know that Feb 29th is Rare Disease Day. I thank you for scheduling this hearing & hope that each of you will take a moment to reflect on the grave disparities that are created unwittingly by the multitude of rare diseases that impact 1 in every 10 people on average.

When individual rare diseases are looked at collectively, their numbers are huge and they present a public health crisis. Rare disease patients, their families, their caregivers, and all of their communities are adversely affected. Often in grave ways. These daily never-ending impacts are all too often left unrecognized and never discussed.

Driving is one of those things. It is something most people expect to be able to do and it is mostly taken for granted; until you have someone in your family that cannot drive.

SB3002 asks the state to fund 5 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. This established need has only grown since 2015.

These needs have been identified, documented and have only increased since the reports culmination. They are very very real.

My daughter chose not to even consider University of Hawaii at Hilo even though her big sister goes to school there because she knows that her independence would be thwarted because the public transportation options on the island of Hawai'i are not very good. Please create and fund the 5 positions within the Department of Transportation. They are crucial.

Three of these positions will serve the counties of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui. People should not be relegated to isolation simply because they cannot drive. Vision loss is very real and eventually will impact us all.

Please support SB3002 and move funding into creating more independence for the people of Hawai'i; no matter what island they live on.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on SB3002. It is a very important bill.