

**LATE**



**HAWAI'I APPLESEED**  
CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

**Testimony for Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice  
Support for SCR139  
Senate Committee on Transportation, Culture and the Arts (TCA)  
March 21st, 2024**

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Dear Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and members of the TCA committee,  
Mahalo for the opportunity to express **SUPPORT for SCR139** which requests a task force be convened to develop options to reduce cost and return increased value to residents from funds made available by the state for public mass transit.

This testimony is being submitted on behalf of the Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice. Our organization works to build a Hawai'i where everyone has genuine opportunities to achieve economic security and fulfill their potential. Affordable, accessible, and safe transportation is crucial for fostering economic equality as it enables individuals of all backgrounds to access employment opportunities, education, and essential services.

Hawai'i Appleseed is advocating for SCR13 because public transit investments provide long-term benefits for both our local government and island residents. By encouraging the use of public transit, the state can reduce the need for expensive road maintenance, alleviate traffic congestion, and improve overall transportation efficiency. At the same time, public transit can also reduce a household's transportation costs and allow families and individuals to reallocate resources towards other essential needs such as housing, education, and healthcare.

However, it's evident that there exist inefficiencies within the current system that hinder the effectiveness of our transit system in serving residents needs and maximizing taxpayer dollars. Convening the proposed task force presents an opportunity to evaluate and propose innovative solutions aimed at reducing costs and enhancing the overall quality of public transit services. This task force can identify areas for improvement, such as the integration of advanced technologies, the optimization of routes, and the implementation of free and reduced fare programs to serve vulnerable populations.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

*Abbey Seitz*

Abbey Seitz

Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice  
Director of Transportation Equity

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**SCR-139**

Submitted on: 3/21/2024 7:46:31 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/21/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Travis Counsell	Testifying for Hawai'i Bicycling League	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawai'i Bicycling League supports SCR139 and its creation of a special task force to reduce costs and increase value of mass transit in Hawai'i.

At HBL, we recognize multi-modal transportation as a key to getting more people on bikes. Examining mass transit options and increasing the effectiveness aligns with our organization's priorities.

Please support this effort and help reduce the cost of transportation, provide more climate responsible options, and make our roadways safer, more accessible, and more equitable for all.

Ride Aloha,

Travis Counsell, HBL Executive Director



Email: [communications@ulupono.com](mailto:communications@ulupono.com)

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION & CULTURE & THE ARTS  
Thursday, March 21, 2024 — 3:00 p.m.

**Ulupono Initiative supports SCR 139, Requesting a Task Force be Convened to Develop Options to Reduce Cost and Return Increased Value to Residents from Funds Made Available by the State for Public Mass Transit.**

Dear Chair Lee and Members of the Committee:

My name is Micah Munekata, and I am the Director of Government Affairs at Ulupono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-focused impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life throughout the islands by helping our communities become more resilient and self-sufficient through locally produced food, renewable energy, clean transportation choices, and better management of freshwater resources.

**Ulupono supports SCR 139**, which requests a task force be convened to develop options to reduce cost and return increased value to residents from funds made available by the State for public mass transit.

More than 4% of our workforce across the state use public transportation.<sup>1</sup> On Oahu, TheBus alone likely carries over 80,000 people every day.<sup>2</sup> Helping this mode thrive across the state to provide its best value to our communities is imperative for our traffic safety and climate goals while providing real transportation choices for all our friends and families in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata  
Director of Government Affairs

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<sup>1</sup> <https://alohachallenge.hawaii.gov/apps/38d3aac9e2e44c6a9a82fcef496b4a12/explore>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.thebus.org/Performance/Bus/Fixed%20Route%20-%2001-2024%20Performance.pdf>

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**SCR-139**

Submitted on: 3/21/2024 9:14:45 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/21/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kaili	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

I am in stron g support of this bill beacuse i ride the skyline to go to work and play i would be nice if they add a skyline all the way down to kapolei commons shopping center and extend the skyline hours pat 7pm if they have more funding please pass this bill thank you.