

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

223

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 06 , 2025

RE: H.B. No. 461
H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection, to which
was referred H.B. No. 461 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO COMMUTING,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to require the Director of
Human Resources Development, in consultation with the Hawaii
Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission, Hawaii State
Energy Office, and Department of Accounting and General Services,
to develop and implement a Commuting Choice Benefit Program for
all state employees regardless of mode of transportation.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Hawaii State Energy Office; Hawai'i Climate Change
Mitigation and Adaptation Commission; Oahu Metropolitan Planning
Organization; and three individuals. Your Committee received
comments on this measure from the Department of Accounting and
General Services; Department of Human Resources Development; and
one individual.

Your Committee finds that the State's policy of providing
subsidized parking for state employees creates an inequitable
transportation benefit and discourages the use of alternative
commuting methods. Your Committee further finds that employees
who walk, bike, use public transit, or car-share do not receive

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comparable subsidies, despite using a more environmentally friendly mode of transportation. This measure strives to provide equitable transportation benefits for all state employees, regardless of their mode of travel, through the establishment of a Commuting Choice Benefit Program.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Requiring the Commuting Choice Benefit Program to conduct education and outreach regarding state employee transportation benefits;
- (2) Requiring each state department and agency to establish a Volunteer Employee Transportation Coordinator;
- (3) Requiring the Department of Human Resources Development to offer fully subsidized public transit and bikeshare passes;
- (4) Requiring the Department of Human Resources Development to develop a Parking Opt-Out Program;
- (5) Adding an appropriation of an unspecified amount for the development of the Commuting Choice Benefit Program and establishment of positions;
- (6) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (7) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

Your Committee respectfully requests your Committee on Finance, should it deliberate on this measure, to consider an appropriation for one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) permanent position within the Department of Human Resources Development and one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) permanent position within the Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 461, as amended herein, and recommends that it



pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 461,
H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Labor.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Energy &
Environmental Protection,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicole E. Lowen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

NICOLE E. LOWEN, Chair



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Bill/Resolution No.:	Committee Referral:	Date:		
HB 4601	E.E.P., LAB, FIN	2/4/25		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
E.E.P. Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. LOWEN, Nicole E. (C)	✓			
2. PERRUSO, Amy A. (VC)	✓			
3. KAHALOA, Kirstin	✓			
4. KUSCH, Matthias	✓			
5. QUINLAN, Sean	✓			
6. WARD, Gene				✓
TOTAL (6)	5			1
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. committee acronym(s)				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: _____ <div style="text-align: center;"></div>				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				