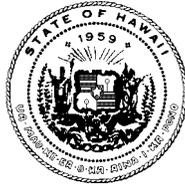


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



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  
Office of the Director  
P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

TRISTA SPEER  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

February 12, 2024

TO: The Honorable Senator Chris Lee, Chair  
Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **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.**

Hearing: February 13, 2024, 3:05 p.m.  
Conference Room 224, State Capitol & Video Conference

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this measure and defers to the Executive Office on Aging and the Department of Transportation on implementation and resource needs. DHS respectfully requests that any appropriation not reduce or replace 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 comments on this measure.



## DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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

February 13, 2024

### TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS

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



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**The State Legislature**  
**Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and The Arts**  
**Tuesday, February 13, 2024**  
**Conference Room 224**  
**3:05 p.m.**

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

Aloha Chair Lee, 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."<sup>1</sup>

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**.

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

**SB-3002**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 6:45:54 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/13/2024 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Committee,

My name is Joel Cho and I stand with the National Federation of the Blind of Hawaii in strong support of SB3002. Over the last 20 years, I've resided in and used paratransit services on Oahu, the Big Island, and Maui. Each county has their own set of rules and policies on how they operate and the services are not always consistent or user friendly towards its clients. This bill will help our paratransit services become more accessible to the people in our communities who need them.

Paratransit services should be available to all and not just those who happen to live in certain regions or distances from bus routes. Technology also needs to be updated. There is no reason clients should have to wait out on the curb and hope that their driver will show up within a 30 minute window when we have the technology to create an app that would easily provide real time driver location updates to the client and keep the client out of bad weather and other dangerous elements.

**SB-3002**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 10:25:43 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/13/2024 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
james gashel	Testifying for National Federation of the Blind of Hawaii	Support	In Person

Comments:

Testimony of James Gashel

Submitted for National Federation of the Blind of Hawai'i

Committee on Transportation Culture and the Arts (TCA)

Hawai'i State Senate

Thirty-second Legislature, regular session of 2024

February 13, 2024, 3:05 PM, hearing on SB3002

Good afternoon chair, vice chair, and members. I am James Gashel, representing National Federation of the Blind (NFB) of Hawai'i, 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 Hawai'i 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 Hawai'i, Kauai, and Maui.

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

**SB-3002**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 8:52:47 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/13/2024 3:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Clifford Miyashiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good afternoon chair, vice chair, and members. I am Clifford Miyashiro. I strongly support SB3002, needed for people with transportation needs due to age or disability. Thank you for scheduling this hearing

Testimony of Donald Sakamoto  
Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts (TCA)  
Hawaii State Senate  
Thirty-second Legislature, regular session of 2024  
February 13, 2024, 3:05 PM, hearing on SB3002

Good afternoon 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 move this bill forward for this session.

**SB-3002**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 3:00:27 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/13/2024 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emerie Mitchell-Butler	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony of Emerie Mitchell-Butler

Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts (TCA)

Hawaii State Senate

Thirty-second Legislature, regular session of 2024

February 13, 2024, 3:05 PM, hearing on SB3002

Good afternoon chair, vice chair, and members. My name is Emerie Mitchell-Butler, a blind high school student on the Windward side of Oahu. I strongly support SB3002. Thank you for scheduling this hearing.

Growing up, I watched every one of my siblings learn to drive, and eventually, drive a car of their own. They drive to school and to work, they meet friends across town, they go to concerts and movies, visit family, and so much more. I knew from the very beginning that I would never drive anywhere. I would gain my mobility independence through the local public transportation system, and when absolutely necessary and at a steep cost, through ride share services like Uber and Lyft. I am very lucky that Oahu has extensive bus coverage to at least the places I'm going. Not everyone in Hawaii is so lucky. Particularly for the more rural counties, people who cannot drive struggle to get to the places they need to go.

The need for public transportation has already been documented. SB3002 is the next step in getting public transportation to every person in Hawaii who relies on it. I really appreciate you helping to move it along.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Emerie Mitchell-Butler

Brandon Young

2/11/2024

Testimony of Brandon Young

Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts (TCA)

Hawaii State Senate

Thirty-second Legislature, regular session of 2024

February 13, 2024, 3:05 PM, hearing on SB3002

Dear Chair and Vice Chair,

My name is Brandon Young and I am a member of the National Federation of the Blind of Hawaii. I am submitting testimony in favor of this bill. I believe that the elderly and the disabled should have a right to public transportation on the neighbor islands. Currently, there is very little public transportation for those who are elderly or disabled on the neighbor islands. This bill would ask for funding to create more opportunities for public transportation for those who are elderly or disabled on the neighbor islands. I want to thank you and your committee for taking the time to hear our bill this session. I would wish that you pass our bill so that we can help improve the lives that are elderly or disabled on our neighbor islands. I hope you have a wonderful day.