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STATE OF HAWAII  
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**  
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February 6, 2025

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

The Honorable Senator Joy San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

FROM: Ryan I. Yamane, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 1492 – RELATING TO MOBILITY MANAGEMENT.**

Hearing: February 7, 2025, 1:15 p.m.  
Conference Room 225 & Video Conference, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of the bill, defers to the Department of Transportation (DOT), and provides comments. DHS respectfully requests that any appropriation not reduce or replace priorities identified in the executive budget.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds to the DOT to implement the recommendations of the task force on mobility management, established pursuant to Act 214, in consultation with the Aging and Disability Resource Center of the Executive Office on Aging and other stakeholder groups.

DHS Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), Ho'opono Services for the Blind Branch, provides statewide services to blind and low vision individuals ranging from employment to independent living. The majority of these individuals rely on public transportation, especially para-transit services, which are limited on the neighbor islands and rural areas. For those who

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are interested in joining the workforce, DVR prepares individuals with a disability for competitive integrated employment. Having access to reliable, affordable transportation is essential for individuals with a disability to obtain and maintain meaningful employment.

Establishing a statewide transportation framework to assist individuals with disabilities and older adults similar to what's provided on Oahu by Oahu Transit Services (OTS) will move the State forward to providing equitable access to mobility services. The target group will benefit from the increased opportunities to seek employment and engage in their community, supporting their independence and improving their quality of life.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of this measure.



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I**  
**STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**  
**'A'UNIKE MOKU'ĀPUNI NO KA NĀ KĀWAI KULA**  
PRINCESS VICTORIA KAMĀMALU BUILDING  
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543

February 7, 2025

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

Dear Senator Lee, Senator Buenaventura, and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: SB1492 Relating to Mobility Management

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **SUPPORTS SB1492**, which Appropriates funds to the Department of Transportation to implement the recommendations of the Task Force on Mobility Management, established pursuant to Act 214, SLH 2013, in consultation with the Aging and Disability Resource Center of the Executive Office on Aging and other stakeholder groups.

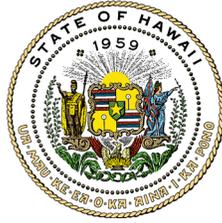
Reliable and safe public transportation is a fundamental right that should be accessible to all individuals. In Hawai'i, those living in rural areas are often the most impacted. Mobility management is especially relevant to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), who face challenges when it comes to transportation. Public transit systems may not be equipped to accommodate their specific needs, such as requiring an assistant, a drop-off location with a curb cut, or a sidewalk wide enough and smooth enough so they can wheel the terrain.

By providing the necessary resources, individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) would be able to integrate into the community with the same ease and accessibility as everyone else.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of SB1492**.

Sincerely,

Daintry Bartoldus  
Executive Administrator



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

**KENNETH FINK, MD, MGA, MPH**  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH  
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

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**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
**KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO**  
**EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING**  
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250 SOUTH HOTEL STREET, SUITE 406  
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB1492**  
**RELATING TO MOBILITY MANAGEMENT**

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, CULTURE, AND THE ARTS  
SENATOR CHRIS LEE, CHAIR  
SENATOR LORRAINE INOUE, VICE CHAIR

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
SENATOR JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR  
SENATOR HENRY J.C. AQUINO, VICE CHAIR

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

Hearing: Friday, February 7, 2025, at 1:15 P.M. in Conference Room 225

- 1 **EOA Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department of
- 2 Health (DOH) supports the intent of SB1492.
- 3 **Fiscal Implications:** Appropriates funds to the Department of Transportation for fiscal year
- 4 2025-2026 and the same sum for fiscal year 2026-2027. Includes funding for staff positions.
- 5 **Purpose and Justification:** SB1492 appropriates funds to the Department of Transportation to
- 6 implement the recommendations of the statewide Mobility Management Task Force, in
- 7 consultation with the Aging and Disability Resource Center of the Executive Office on Aging and
- 8 other stakeholder groups. Frail elders and individuals with disabilities, particularly those in

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

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

8 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



## Testimony of the Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization

### Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

February 7, 202 at 1:15PM  
Conference Room 225 and Videoconference

#### SB 1492 Relating to Mobility Management

Dear Chairs Lee and San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs Inouye and Aquino, and Committees Members,

The Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization (OahuMPO) **supports SB 1492**, which appropriates funds to the Department of Transportation to implement the recommendations of the Task Force on Mobility Management, established pursuant to Act 214, SLH 2013, in consultation with the Aging and Disability Resource Center of the Executive Office on Aging and other stakeholder groups.

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.<sup>1</sup> Providing an appropriation to the Department of Transportation to implement the recommendations of the Task Force for Mobility Management will enable the resources, coordination, and leadership to move transportation projects forward that would assist elders and/or those with disabilities, and improve their mobility options.

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), which encourages and promotes a safe, efficient, and resilient transportation system that serves the mobility needs of all people and freight (including walkways, bicycles, and transit), fosters economic growth and development, while minimizing fuel consumption and air pollution ([23 CFR 450.300](#)).

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

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<sup>1</sup> [https://oahumpo.org/?wpfb\\_dl=2215](https://oahumpo.org/?wpfb_dl=2215)



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**The State Legislature**  
**Senate Committee on Transportation and Cultural and The Arts**  
**Senate Committee on Health and Human Services**  
**Friday, February 7, 2025**  
**Conference Room 225**  
**1:15 p.m.**

TO: The Honorable Chris Lee, Co- Chair  
The Honorable Joy San Buenaventura, Co-Chair  
FROM: Keali'i Lopez, State Director, AARP Hawaii  
RE: Support for S.B. 1492 Relating to Mobility Management

Aloha Co-Chairs Lee and San Buenaventura, 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 135,000 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 1492 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 1492**.

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

Testimony of Donald Sakamoto

Senate Transportation (TCA) and Health and Human Services Committee (HHS)

Thirty-third legislature, 2025 regular session

February 7, 2025, 1:15 pm, hearing on SB1492

Good afternoon Chair, Vice Chair, and members. I am Donald Sakamoto, supporting SB1492, to make an appropriation to the department of transportation to implement the recommendations of the task force on mobility management, established pursuant to Act 214, Session Laws of Hawaii, 2013.

In enacting Act 214, the legislature found Hawaii's older and disabled residents need a transportation mobility management program to:

Appropriations:

Funding for fiscal years 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 to:

- Hire mobility managers for Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui counties.
- Establish statewide outreach and coordinator positions.
- Support local and statewide mobility projects and procurement initiatives.

Implementation Goals:

- Fund county-specific mobility strategies.
- Establish state leadership and coordination to secure federal funding.
- Create statewide purchasing cooperatives for vehicles and technologies.
- Advocate for sustainable, permanent funding sources.

Legislative Intent:

- The bill aims to ensure the continued support and expansion of mobility programs, addressing critical transportation needs for Hawaii's aging and disabled populations.

This legislation highlights a focused effort to centralize and optimize transportation resources, ensuring equitable access to mobility services across the state.

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. Bills were reintroduced in 2023 (HB415) and 2024 (SB3002 HD2) however, they were not passed due to the lack of funding for the statewide outreach and coordinator positions.

SB1492 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 that 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. The time now is to prepare to have better public transportation needs now not later on. Famous "By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail" by Benjamin Franklin.

Mahalo and I truly urge you all to please support SB1492 to proceed on for this year's legislative session.

Brandon Young

2/5/2025

Testimony on SB1492

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 on behalf of support of bill SB1492. I am supporting this bill because it will give opportunities for the elderly and disabilities on our neighbor islands when it comes to transportation. People on the neighbor islands do not have proper transportation provided to them by these counties. People who are elderly and disabled have a greater problem in finding solutions to transportation in these communities. If you pass this bill, it will create greater opportunities for these people on the neighbor islands. I urge you to pass this bill. I thank you for your time on this matter.

**SB-1492**

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:38:10 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/7/2025 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kaili	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I am in strong support of this measure because mobility is more important for people with disabilities to use public transportation to go place to place in the community please pass this bill thank you