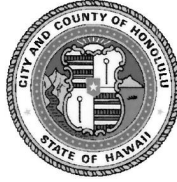


DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

650 SOUTH KING STREET, 3RD FLOOR
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
Phone: (808) 768-8305 • Fax: (808) 768-4730 • Internet: www.honolulu.gov

KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR



MICHAEL D. FORMBY
DIRECTOR

MARK N. GARRITY, AICP
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

April 1, 2015

The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means
State Senate
State Capitol, Room 211
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: House Bill No. 1010, HD1, SD1 Relating to the Commuter
Benefits Program

The Department of Transportation Services supports House Bill No. 1010, HD1, SD1, relating to Commuter Benefits. The bill would authorize the Counties to establish commuter benefit programs that would allow employees to take part in a federal tax incentive program to reduce transportation costs via transit, vanpooling, and bicycling.

There is no cost to the State or Counties from these programs; employees would have the ability to use pre-tax dollars subject to monthly limits to pay for their commuting expenses. In other states that have adopted these programs, employers have found that commuter benefits are cost-effective and serve as an excellent recruitment and retention tool.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1010, HD1, SD1.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael D. Formby".

for Michael D. Formby
Director

wam3 - Nicolas

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2015 4:06 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: bentut@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1010 on Apr 2, 2015 09:00AM

HB1010

Submitted on: 3/31/2015

Testimony for WAM on Apr 2, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ben Trevino	BIKESHARE HAWAII	Support	No

Comments: The Commuter Benefits program is an extremely low cost and low risk to have a major impact on alternative transportation and renewable energy goals in Hawaii. Bikeshare Hawaii, which will be addressing the transportation sector as well, fully supports HB1010

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

ADDRESS

3442 Waialae Ave., Suite 1
Honolulu, HI 96816

PHONE

808-735-5756



FAX

808-735-7989

EMAIL

bicycle@hbl.org

April 1, 2015

Testimony Supporting HB1010 HD1 SD1

Aloha Chair Tokuda and Esteemed Members of the Weights and Means Committee

Hawaii Bicycling League **supports HB1010 HD1**. This bill will enable the counties to establish Commuter Benefits programs, including the utilization of a federal tax benefit.

The federal Commuter Benefit program incentivizes bicycling, transit, and vanpool for work commutes through providing a tax benefit to offset commute costs. This bill provides the opportunity for state and county officials to make this federal tax benefit more available to the people of Hawaii, thereby reducing personal transportation costs and encouraging more sustainable transportation choices.

While people choose to bicycle for a wide variety of reasons, the fact that it's an inexpensive way of getting around is a crucial part of the equation for many. Commuter Benefits will make bicycling more economically appealing, thereby encouraging this healthy and environmentally friendly commute choice.

Thank you very much for considering the comments of the Hawaii Bicycling League. If you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please contact Chad Taniguchi (808-735-5756, chad@hbl.org) or Daniel Alexander (808-275-6717, daniel@hbl.org).

Ride and Drive Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chad Taniguchi".

Chad Taniguchi
Executive Director
Hawaii Bicycling League

Daniel Alexander
Advocacy Director
Hawaii Bicycling League



COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
HAWAII ENERGY POLICY FORUM
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I AT MĀNOA

Hawaii Energy Policy Forum

Jeanne Schultz Afuvai, HI Inst. for Public Affairs
Joseph Boivin, Hawai'i Gas
Warren Bollmeier, HI Renewable Energy Alliance
Albert Chee, Chevron
Elizabeth Cole, The Kohala Center
Leslie Cole-Brooks, HI Solar Energy Assn
Kyle Datta, Ulupono Initiative
Mitch Ewan, UH HI Natural Energy Institute
Jay Fidell, ThinkTech HI, Inc.
Carl Freedman, Haiku Design & Analysis
Sen. Mike Gabbard, HI State Senate
Dan Giovanni, Hawaiian Electric Company
Mark Glick, State Energy Office, DBEDT
Justin Gruenstein, City & Co. of Honolulu
Dale Hahn, Ofc of US Sen Brian Schatz
Michael Hamnett, Research Corp. of the UH
Randy Iwase, Public Utilities Commission
Rachel James, Ofc of US Rep. Tulsi Gabbard
Jim Kelly, Kana'i Island Utility Cooperative
Darren Kimura, Energy Industries
Kelly King, Sustainable Biodiesel Alliance
Rep Chris Lee, HI House of Representatives
Gladys Marrone, Building Industry Assn of HI
Doug McLeod, Maui County
Stephen Meder, UH Facilities and Planning
Lauren Montez-Hernandez, Ofc of Sen Mazie Hirono
Sharon Moriwaki, UH So. Sci. Public Policy Ctr
Ron Nelson, U.S. Defense Energy Support Center
Tim O'Connell, U.S. Dept of Agriculture
Jeffrey Ono, Division of Consumer Advocacy, DCCA
Darren Pai, Hawaiian Electric Company
Melissa Pavlicek, Hawaii Public Policy Advocates
Randy Perreira, HI Government Employees Assn
Rick Rocheleau, UH HI Natural Energy Institute
Will Rolston, Hawai'i County
Riley Saito, SunPower Systems Corp
Joelle Simonpietri, U.S. Pacific Com. Energy Ofc
H. Ray Starling, Hawaii Energy
Ben Sullivan, Kana'i County
Lance Tanaka, Hawaii Independent Energy
Maria Tome, Public Utilities Commission
Ah Linn Yamane, HI Government Employees Assn

Testimony of Mitch Ewan
Chair, Transportation Working Group of the Hawaii Energy Policy Forum

Before the
Senate Committee Ways and Means

Monday, Thursday, April 2, 2015, 9:00 a.m., Conference Room 211

IN SUPPORT OF HB1010 HD1 SD1 - Relating to The Commuter Benefits Program

Chair Tokuda and Vice Chair Kouchi,

I am Mitch Ewan, Chair of the Transportation Working Group of the Hawaii Energy Policy Forum (Forum). The Forum, created in 2002, is comprised of over 40 representatives from Hawaii's electric utilities, oil and natural gas suppliers, environmental and community groups, renewable energy industry, and federal, state and local government, including representatives from the neighbor islands. Our vision and mission, and comprehensive "10 Point Action Plan" serves as a guide to move Hawaii toward its preferred energy goals and our support for this bill.

HB1010 HD1 SD1 authorizes the counties to adopt a commuter benefits program to take advantage of federal tax incentives available for energy efficient transportation options such as transit, vanpooling, and biking. Section 132(f) of the IRS Code allows employees to use pre-tax dollars subject to monthly limits to pay for their commuting expenses. This IRS code has been around since 1992. Offering commuter benefits saves employers money as a result of reducing payroll taxes.

Other jurisdictions throughout the United States have seen tremendous benefits after adopting commuter benefits programs. In San Francisco, from 2012-2013, vehicle miles traveled (VMT) was reduced by approximately 2,900,000 miles per day, reducing annual CO2 emissions by 286,000 metric tons. On average, this saved 123,500 gallons of gas per day (Source: San Francisco Department of Environment, 2014). From 1993 to 2005, Washington State's Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) law has contributed to a 23 percent decrease in employees that drive alone to work, alleviating traffic congestion and reducing commute times (Source: WA Commute Trip Reduction Board, 2011).

The counties currently do not have authority to carry out a county-wide commuter benefits program in their jurisdictions. HB1010 HD1 SD1 provides this authorization. While the state incurs no cost, as this would be a county program and employees use pre-tax dollars to pay for their commuting expenses, HB 1010 HD1 SD1 enables the counties to develop yet another option to help the state and the counties to reduce its dependence on imported fossil fuel, and will reduce traffic congestion, greenhouse gas emissions, and air pollution. As importantly, it will achieve the Hawaii clean energy transportation targets and the greenhouse gas reduction target established in Act 234(2007).

The Forum therefore respectfully urges passage of the bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

This testimony reflects the position of the Forum as a whole and not necessarily of the individual Forum members or their companies



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS
Thursday, April 2, 2015 — 9:00 a.m. — Room 211

Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports HB 1010 HD 1 SD 1, Relating to the Commuter Benefits Program

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Murray Clay and I am Managing Partner of the Ulupono Initiative, a Hawai'i-based impact investment company that strives to improve the quality of life for the people of Hawai'i by working toward solutions that create more locally grown food, increase clean, renewable energy, and waste reduction.

Ulupono strongly supports HB 1010 HD 1 SD 1, which authorizes the counties to require employers to offer employees pre-tax commuter benefits. Promoting and incentivizing alternative forms of transportation such as transit, vanpooling, and bicycling will help us to reduce our imported fossil fuel usage.

Through the Hawai'i Clean Energy Initiative, the State has made great progress in reducing imported fossil fuel use as the source for Hawai'i's electricity generation. However, the transportation sector uses more energy than the electricity sector in Hawai'i. About 20% of the state's primary energy usage is due to ground transportation, such as cars and trucks, which is almost entirely based on imported fossil fuels.

Therefore, Ulupono is investing in companies that promote alternative forms of transportation. These include WaySine, which provides bus riders with real-time information about their wait time at bus stops, and Bikeshare Hawai'i, which will offer a network of rentable bicycles across Honolulu. This bill will further promote transportation methods that are less reliant on imported fossil fuels.

As Hawai'i's energy issues become more complex and challenging, we appreciate this committee's efforts to look at policies that support renewable energy production.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Murray Clay
Managing Partner

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Thursday, April 2, 2015 at 9:00 A.M.
Conference Room 211, State Capitol**

RE: HOUSE BILL 1010 HD1 SD1 RELATING TO THE COMMUTER BENEFITS PROGRAM

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **opposes** HB 1010 HD1 SD1, which authorizes the counties to adopt an ordinance requiring employers to offer employees specified commuter benefits options.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 1,000 businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

We are specifically opposed to the below section that authorizes the counties to enact employer mandates:

(3) Transportation furnished by the employer at no cost or low cost, as determined by the designated authority, to employees in a vanpool, bus, or similar multi-passenger vehicle operated by or for the employer.

Employers should have a choice of whether or not to offer these additional benefits, rather than being forced to by government. Furthermore, we are concerned that HB 1010 HD1 SD1 allows counties to enact these employer mandates, which we believe should be left at the state level. We are also concerned with the additional costs and administrative burden that this bill proposes.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

wam3 - Nicolas

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2015 4:24 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: randy@kuaichamber.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1010 on Apr 2, 2015 09:00AM*

HB1010

Submitted on: 4/1/2015

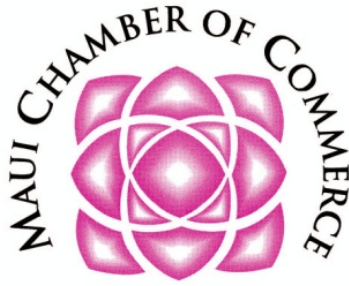
Testimony for WAM on Apr 2, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randall Francisco	Kauai Chamber of Commerce	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov



OUR BUSINESS IS MAUI BUSINESS

**TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION OF HB 1010 HD1 SD1
RELATING TO THE COMMUTER BENEFITS PROGRAM**

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hawaii State Capitol,
Conference Room 211
April 2, 2015
9:00AM

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi, and Members of the Committee:

The Maui Chamber of Commerce opposes HB 1010 HD1 SD1, which authorizes the counties to adopt an ordinance requiring employers to offer employees specified commuter benefits options.

Here at the Maui Chamber of Commerce, we believe in creating a strong economic environment that supports job growth while also protecting our environment and preserving our quality of life. We support the "triple bottom-line" view of sustainability: economy, environment and social well-being. We have approximately 500 members, 95% of whom are small businesses with 25 or fewer employees.

We are specifically opposed to the below section that authorizes the counties to enact employer mandates:

- (3) Transportation furnished by the employer at no cost or low cost, as determined by the designated authority, to employees in a vanpool, bus, or similar multi-passenger vehicle operated by or for the employer.

Employers should have a choice of whether or not to offer these additional benefits, rather than being forced to by government. Furthermore, we are concerned that HB 1010 HD1 SD1 allows counties to enact these employer mandates, which we believe should be left at the state level. We are also concerned with the additional costs and administrative burden that this bill proposes.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap
President

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: nikki2244@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1010 on Apr 2, 2015 09:00AM
Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2015 3:43:36 PM

HB1010

Submitted on: 3/31/2015

Testimony for WAM on Apr 2, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nicole Chatterson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Way and Means Committee, I humbly ask that you support this initiative to require employers to offer commuter benefits packages. This initiative directly supports two of Hawaii's Aloha + Challenge sustainability goals: 1) supporting smart, sustainability communities and 2) reducing our fossil fuel consumption. With Aloha, Nicole Chatterson Oahy Resident and Cyclist

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: bcole47@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1010 on Apr 2, 2015 09:00AM
Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2015 12:54:57 PM

HB1010

Submitted on: 3/31/2015

Testimony for WAM on Apr 2, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Betsy Cole	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This is an important, voluntary effort, to help reduce Hawaii's dependence on imported fuel and reduce vehicle miles traveled/traffic congestion. There is no cost to state agencies. We urge you to pass this bill.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: cpicardo@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1010 on Apr 2, 2015 09:00AM
Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2015 5:45:46 PM

HB1010

Submitted on: 3/31/2015

Testimony for WAM on Apr 2, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Caterine Picardo	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Dear Committee, I support HB1010. Commuter Benefits programs have the potential to produce many positive impacts to employers, employees, the community, environment and transportation system. There are many successful existing programs across the United States. This bill will allow the counties to establish their own programs if they decided to do it, giving flexibility to tailor them for their needs and allowing more residents and employers to take advantage of commuter benefits. I also support HB1010 because it aligns with efforts for a more sustainable Hawaii. Sincerely, Caterine Picardo

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov