



TESTIMONY BY:
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
DREANALEE K. KALILI
TAMMY L. LEE
ROBIN K. SHISHIDO
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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

March 1, 2023
10:00 A.M.

State Capitol, Conference Room 308 via Videoconference

H.B. 415 HD 2
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF
THE TASK FORCE ON MOBILITY MANAGEMENT, ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO
ACT 214, SESSION LAWS OF HAWAII 2013

House Committee on Finance

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports the intent** of this bill which 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 Hawai'i 2013. However, the DOT has the following comments.

The DOT believes that managing the appropriations and implementing the recommendations of the task force is more befitting to the DOT than the Department of Health.

All Counties have a mobility management program that provides services beyond their fixed route services. The appropriated funds through the DOT will support and enhance these current services.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543
March 1, 2023

The Honorable Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
House Committee on Finance
The Thirty-Second Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Representative Yamashita and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: HB415, HD2 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 Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **Supports with Comments HB415 HD2**, which makes an appropriation to the department of health to implement the recommendations of the statewide mobility management task force, established pursuant to Act 214, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2013. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD2)

The Council supports the intent of this measure, but we believe the **Department of Transportation is better suited to implement the recommendations made by the task force on mobility management**. The DoT is the department that would be most effective as their department houses the policies and partnerships needed to improve mobility conditions. We do recommend the Aging and Disability Resource Center and other stakeholder groups are consulted regarding new mobility practices but should not be the implementors.

For any more substantive changes, we defer to the Aging and Disability Resource Center. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of HB415 HD2**.

Sincerely,

Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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

March 1, 2023

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

House Bill 415 HD2 – 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 House Bill 415 HD2 – 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 would make an appropriation to the department of health to implement the recommendations of the task force on mobility management, established pursuant to Act 214.

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 the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

KIRBY L. SHAW
Executive Director



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**The State Legislature
House Committee on Finance
Wednesday, March 1, 2023
Conference Room 308
10:00 a.m.**

TO: The Honorable Kyle Yamashita, Chair
RE: Support for H.B. 415,HD2 Relating to Mobility Management

Aloha Chair Yamashita 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 **supports H.B. 415 HD2** to develop and establish a mobility management program that 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."¹

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 **H.B. 415, HD2.**

Sincerely,


Keali'i S. López
State Director

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

Testimony of James Gashel
Submitted for National Federation of the Blind of Hawaii
Committee on Finance (FIN)
Hawaii State House of Representatives
Thirty-second Legislature, regular session of 2023
March 1, 2023, 10:00 AM, hearing on HB415 H.D.2

Good morning chair, vice chair, and members. I am James Gashel, representing the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) of Hawaii, proudly supporting HB415 H.D.2 on behalf of people with disabilities of all ages throughout our state. Thank you for scheduling this hearing.

Driving a car is something most people basically 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 those of us who are blind as well as for others with disabilities.

HB415 asks the state to fund 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 was in effect. These needs will not be resolved by doing nothing. Therefore, the National Federation of the Blind of Hawaii respectfully requests that the identified positions in the Department of Health be funded.

Mahalo for allowing this bill to proceed.

HB-415-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 7:04:50 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Clifford Miyashiro	Hoopono	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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HB415 asks the state to fund 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 was in effect. These needs will not be resolved by doing nothing. Therefore, the National Federation of the Blind of Hawaii respectfully requests that the identified positions in the Department of Health be funded.

Mahalo for allowing this bill to proceed.

HB-415-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 5:28:23 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Dept of Health can not Be TRUSTED they are a Bunch of Crooks that screw the people over in the Covid deal and now these people are all Dying!!!!

Email: cylonone@aol.com

Testimony of Donald Sakamoto
Member, National Federation of the Blind of Hawaii
Committee on Finance (FIN)
Hawaii State House of Representatives
Thirty-second Legislature, regular session of 2023
March 1, 2023, 10:00 AM, on hearing House Bill 415 HD1

Good morning chair, vice chair, and members. I am Donald Sakamoto, a member of the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) of Hawaii, strongly supporting HB415 H.D.1.

This 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 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. Furthermore, this bill means hope for better opportunities to enable the disabled and elderly people to improve their daily lives.

The bill truly acknowledges the need for a Mobility Management Plan to address the county elderly and disabled island residents who are seeking the best help with their transportation needs. In fact, The bill does include in having one mobility manager in each of the counties of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui; one statewide outreach position; and one statewide coordinator to ensure that all of the counties are working together for the betterment of the elderly and disabled residents. The time is to prepare in having better and fair transportation services now and not later on. Famous “By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail” by Benjamin Franklin.

I truly urge you all to please support to move this bill forward into law.

Brandon Young

2/27/2023

Committee on Finance (FIN)

Hawaii State House of Representatives

Thirty-second Legislature, regular session of 2023

March 1, 2023, 10:00 AM, hearing on HB415 H.D.2

Dear Chair and committee members,

My name is Brandon Young, and I am a member of the National Federation of the Blind of Hawaii Honolulu Chapter. I am writing in support of HB 415 HD 2. This bill would address an issue that has been going on for a long time. I hope your committee would consider passing this bill forward.

The importance of this bill is to support funding to provide programs to those on the outer islands that lack transportation options. These would be our kupuna or those who are disabled. There was a task force set up back in 2015, eight years ago, that recommended that this funding be provided to allow for these services on our outer islands. Well, this problem has not gone away and this funding is still necessary. I would hope that you would have compassion on a group that can not provide their own transportation and must rely on others to get around the outer islands. I again thank you and your committee for taking the time to consider this measure. I again ask that you pass this bill forward so that it can go over to the other chamber in the legislature. Thank you for your time and have a wonderful day.

HB-415-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 9:25:52 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann Lemke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello committee chair, vice chair, and members, I wish to express my support for HB415 which will support implementing recommendations made in a report on mobility management by the Department of Health. Those of us who are blind or who have other disabilities that prevent us from driving must use public transportation that is available, whether regular busses or paratransit. The availability and adequacy of transportation for mobility-impaired people in Hawaii is inconsistent, varies in quality and reliability, and can severely impact the ability of people with disabilities to function independently in our communities. I personally use paratransit on Oahu and I have used services on a neighbor island. I support the position set forth by the National Federation of the Blind of Hawaii.

HB-415-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 9:38:49 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Claire Santos, MS, RN	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in support of HB415 as it relates to supporting and funding a mobility management program in accordance with the task force's recommendations. There is no question that we need to provide this service in the community for a large population of people who cannot provide the service for themselves. In the interest of their health and safety, we're fortunate that the task force has provided a comprehensive framework for a successful program. Please support HB415 to your fullest extent possible.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Claire P. Santos, MS, RN

HB-415-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/28/2023 12:34:14 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tabatha Mitchell	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Testimony of Tabatha Mitchell
Committee on Finance (FIN)
Hawaii State House of Representatives
Thirty-second Legislature, regular session of 2023
March 1, 2023, 10:00 AM, hearing on HB415 H.D.2

Aloha members of the committee,

Thank you for scheduling this hearing on HB415 H.D.2. It is very important for disabled people that do not drive.

HB415 asks the state to fund positions to help plan and coordinate transportation services for people who need public transportation as an essential service.

It is very easy to think that people that don't drive can manage in other ways. Blind people cannot drive. They rely on public transportation. No one can afford to Uber & Lyft and take cabs everywhere they need to go. When you CAN drive, you just don't think about these things in this context.

My youngest daughter is blind. She is learning to ride the bus and to navigate air travel independently. She will be off to college next year. She was planning a visit to the University of Hawaii campus in Hilo to tour the campus & to visit her big sister that is currently a UHH student. We were all shocked to discover that there is no public transportation bus service on the Big Island. This was very disheartening for my daughter that cannot drive. This reality eliminated UHHilo as an option for her higher education - because she can't drive and she wants the independence of being able to get out & about.

It has been frustrating & heartbreaking to watch our daughter that happens to be blind come to grips with the fact that her long range goal of giving back isn't

conducive on Big Island; nor is it financially possible on Oahu. Farming & teaching regenerative sustainable farming to keiki on Big Island is not conducive to the independent life she wants as an adult because there's no public transportation on BI. She will take her talents - that were acquired here in our great lands - and she will apply them somewhere else where she has access to public transportation. She knows she can't afford to come out of college and buy farm land on Oahu.

That is sad. For us. And for Hawaii.

Especially when Hawaii already has one of the best bus systems in the nation. Please recognize the importance of HB415 H.D.2 and support the funding of positions. Our disabled citizens should not be forced to move off-island or be limited to Oahu just to have mobility independence.

Testimony of Virgil stinnett

Committee on Finance (FIN)

Hawaii State House of Representatives

Thirty-second Legislature, regular session of 2023

March 1, 2023, 10:00 AM, hearing on HB415 H.D.2

Good morning chair, vice chair, and members. My name is Virgil Stinnett, the president of the National Federation of the Blind of Hawaii, fully supporting HB415 H.D.2.

As a local blind businessman, without public transportation my business would be in serious impairment as i could not get to my worksite. I stand in strong support of the testimony submitted by the National Federation of the Blind of Hawai'i.

Mahalo and aloha for seriously considering our need for this bill to pass into law.

Testimony of Hoku Burrows

Committee on Finance (FIN)

Hawaii State House of Representatives

Thirty-second Legislature, regular session of 2023

March 1, 2023, 10:00 AM, hearing on HB415 H.D.2

Good morning chair, vice chair, and members. My name is Hoku Burrows, a member of the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) of Hawaii, fully supporting HB415 H.D.2.

As a local blind kapuna, I stand in strong support of the testimony submitted by the National Federation of the Blind of Hawai'i.

Mahalo nui loa for seriously considering our need for this bill to pass into law.

Testimony of Katie Keim

Committee on Finance (FIN)

Hawaii State House of Representatives

Thirty-second Legislature, regular session of 2023

March 1, 2023, 10:00 AM, hearing on HB415 H.D.2

Good morning chair, vice chair, and members. My name is Katie Keim, a member and leader in the National Federation of the Blind of Hawaii, fully supporting HB415 H.D.2.

As a local professional, public transportation is vital to my successful participation in my career and community service. I stand in strong support of the testimony submitted by the National Federation of the Blind of Hawai'i.

Mahalo for seriously considering our need for this bill to pass into law.

HB-415-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/28/2023 9:00:10 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2023 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Testimony of Emerie Mitchell-Butler

Committee on Finance (FIN)

Hawaii State House of Representatives

Thirty-second Legislature, regular session of 2023

March 1, 2023, 10:00 AM, hearing on HB415 H.D.2

Good morning chair, vice chair, and members. My name is Emerie Mitchell-Butler. As a blind student in Hawaii, I strongly support HB415.

I am currently learning to ride the bus. I am lucky to live on Oahu, where service is fairly comprehensive. However, we need to insure that everyone, even if they live in rural areas, has access to public transportation. After I leave home, I will completely or nearly completely rely on public transportation to get to work, school, home, and other obligations, or anywhere else I want to go.

I share this need with every blind person, and every person who can't drive for whatever reason. These positions are crucial for our independence and autonomy. The need is documented, and it is time to meet the need.

Thank you for considering HB415. I am already so proud of our transportation system, but it has leaps and bounds to go before it can serve everyone. I hope you support the needs of disabled people, and everyone who can't drive, by supporting HB415.

Emerie Mitchell-Butler

HB-415-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/28/2023 9:15:41 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dan Gardner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Finance Committee Chair and Members,

I ask that you support this legislative initiative. It will establish a mobility management program supporting the counties' growing transportation needs for riders with limited mobility, and/or disabilities including kupuna who need a variety of transportation options. It will help leverage Federal funding and provide additional economies of scale to the existing County programs. Thank you.