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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
Thursday, April 11, 2024 — 9:00 a.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports SCR 139, Requesting a Task Force be Convened to Develop Options to Reduce Cost and Return Increased Value to Residents from Funds Made Available by the State for Public Mass Transit.

Dear Chair Todd and Members of the Committee:

My name is Micah Munekata, and I am the Director of Government Affairs at Ulupono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-focused impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life throughout the islands by helping our communities become more resilient and self-sufficient through locally produced food, renewable energy, clean transportation choices, and better management of freshwater resources.

Ulupono supports SCR 139, which requests a task force be convened to develop options to reduce cost and return increased value to residents from funds made available by the State for public mass transit.

More than 4% of our workforce across the state use public transportation.[1] On Oahu, TheBus alone likely carries over 80,000 people every day.[2] Helping this mode thrive across the state to provide its best value to our communities is imperative for our traffic safety and climate goals while providing real transportation choices for all our friends and families in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

[1] https://alohachallenge.hawaii.gov/apps/38d3aac9e2e44c6a9a82fcef496b4a12/explore
[2] http://www.thebus.org/Performance/Bus/Fixed%20Route%20-%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%2001-2024%20Performance.pdf