

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 14 2025

RE: S.B. No. 970

S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Transportation and Culture and the Arts
and Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs, to which was referred
S.B. No. 970 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Authorize a tax credit for businesses that pay the
public transportation costs of employees for:
 - (A) Counties having populations of 700,000 or more; and
 - (B) Taxable years beginning after December 31, 2024,
but not beginning after December 31, 2029; and
- (2) Require reports to the Legislature.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure
from the Retail Merchants of Hawaii and two individuals.

Your Committees received comments on this measure from the
Department of Taxation and Tax Foundation of Hawaii.

Your Committees find that by incentivizing businesses to
subsidize public transportation costs, this measure will encourage



the use of public transportation, therefore reducing traffic congestion, greenhouse gas emissions, and costs of commuting.

Your Committees note the comments of the Department of Taxation regarding the percent of expenditures and the potentiality for waste. Your Committees find that this issue raises concerns that merit further consideration and respectfully requests that subsequent Committees to which this measure is referred examine the issues and concerns raised by the testimony.

Accordingly, your Committees have amended this measure by:

- (1) Inserting language to ensure that eligible employers for the tax credit includes those who purchase fares or passes for employees for bicycle sharing;
- (2) Inserting an effective date of July 1, 2050, to encourage further discussion; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Transportation and Culture and the Arts and Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 970, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 970, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Transportation
and Culture and the Arts and
Energy and Intergovernmental
Affairs,



GLENN WAKAI, Chair



CHRIS LEE, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i


Record of Votes
Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts
TCA

Bill / Resolution No.:* <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">SB 970</div>	Committee Referral: <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">TCA/EIG, WAM</div>	Date: <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">2/11/25</div>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313 </div> </div>				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
LEE, Chris (C)	✓			
INOUE, Lorraine R. (VC)				✓
ELEFANTE, Brandon J.C.	✓			
KANUHA, Dru Mamo	✓			
DECORTE, Samantha	✓			
TOTAL	4			1
Recommendation: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 5px;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted </div>				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em; margin-top: 10px;"> </div>				
Distribution: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 5px;"> <div style="text-align: center;">Original File with Committee Report</div> <div style="text-align: center;">Yellow Clerk's Office</div> <div style="text-align: center;">Pink Drafting Agency</div> <div style="text-align: center;">Goldenrod Committee File Copy</div> </div>				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes

The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs
EIG

Bill / Resolution No.:* <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">SB970</div>	Committee Referral: <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">TCA/EIG, WAM</div>	Date: <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">2/11/25</div>		
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Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
WAKAI, Glenn (C)	✓			
CHANG, Stanley (VC)	✓			
DECOITE, Lynn	✓			
RICHARDS, III, Herbert M. "Tim"	✓			
FEVELLA, Kurt				✓
TOTAL	4			1
Recommendation: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted </div>				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive; margin-top: 10px;">  </div>				
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: 0.8em;"> <div>Distribution:</div> <div>Original</div> <div>Yellow</div> <div>Pink</div> <div>Goldenrod</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: 0.8em; margin-top: 5px;"> <div>File with Committee Report</div> <div>Clerk's Office</div> <div>Drafting Agency</div> <div>Committee File Copy</div> </div>				

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