

Honolulu, Hawaii
FEB 09 , 2026

RE: H.B. No. 2451
H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Transportation, to which was referred H.B. No. 2451 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Require each county to implement fare-free access to its public transportation systems; and
- (2) Increase the tax on petroleum products to reimburse the counties for providing fare-free transit.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization; one member of the Honolulu City Council; Life of the Land; Hawai'i Public Health Institute; Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice; Our Children's Trust; and numerous individuals. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from two individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Transportation; Department of Taxation; Hawaii State Energy Office; Tax Foundation of Hawaii; and one individual.



Your Committee finds that eliminating fares on public transportation systems can meaningfully increase ridership, reduce reliance on single-occupancy vehicles, and expand access to essential mobility for residents across all income levels. Additionally, funding fare-free transit through increased taxes on petroleum products appropriately shifts costs toward fossil fuel use while supporting a transition to more sustainable transportation choices. This measure advances the State's clean economy goals by requiring fare-free public transportation statewide and establishing a dedicated funding mechanism to reimburse counties for providing this public benefit.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

Your Committee respectfully requests your Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection, should it deliberate on this measure, to consider clarifying the language to allow the counties to receive adjusted amounts of reimbursement, as calculated annually for inflation.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Transportation that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2451, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2451, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Transportation,



DARIUS KILA, Chair



HSX 90-26

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 2451	Committee Referral: TRN, EEP, FIN	Date: 2/5/24		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
TRN Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. KILA, Darius K. (C)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
2. MIYAKE, Tyson K. (VC)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
3. COCHRAN, Elle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
4. EVSLIN, Luke A.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
5. GRANDINETTI, Tina Nakada	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
6. KITAGAWA, Lisa	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
7. LA CHICA, Trish	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
8. MURAOKA, Christopher L.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
9. PIERICK, Elijah				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
TOTAL (9)	8	0	0	1
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. committee acronym(s)				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: <u>Tyson Miyake</u>				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				