

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



SIERRA WHITESIDE  
CHAIRPERSON

DAINTRY BARTOLDUS  
EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII  
STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
'A'UNIKE MOKU'ĀPUNI NO KA NĀ KĀWAI KULA  
PRINCESS VICTORIA KAMĀMALU BUILDING  
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122  
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April 16, 2026

The Honorable Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair  
Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs  
The Honorable Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair  
Senate Committee on Transportation  
The Thirty-Third Legislature  
State Capitol  
State of Hawai'i  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Wakai, Chair Inouye and Committee Members:

**SUBJECT: HCR154 – Requesting the County of Hawai'i to Expand the Hele-On Shared Ride Program to Serve the Entire Island of Hawai'i, including Rural and Underserved areas such as West Hawai'i, North Kohala, South Kohala, Ka'ū, and Puna**

The Hawai'i State Council on Developmental Disabilities offers its SUPPORT for HCR154, which requests the County of Hawai'i to expand the Hele-On Shared Ride Program to serve the entire island of Hawai'i, including rural and underserved areas such as West Hawai'i, North Kohala, South Kohala, Ka'ū, and Puna.

Access to reliable transportation is essential for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), aging caregivers, and households with access and functional needs (AFN). Many individuals in rural and neighbor island communities face significant barriers to transportation, including long distances, limited fixed-route options, and a lack of accessible transit services. These barriers can limit access to employment, healthcare, education, and community life.

Expanding the Hele-On Shared Ride Program statewide would help address these gaps by providing more flexible, demand-responsive transportation options. This type of service is particularly important for individuals with disabilities who may require door-to-door or paratransit-style services that traditional fixed-route systems cannot adequately provide.

This measure supports greater independence, community integration, and equity by ensuring that individuals in underserved areas are not left behind due to geographic isolation. Improved transportation access also strengthens connections to essential services and supports, contributing to better health and quality of life outcomes.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HCR154.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daintry Bartoldus".

Daintry Bartoldus  
Executive Administrator



## DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

Ka 'Oihana Ho'oka'a'ike no ka Po'e Kīnānā

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April 16, 2026

### TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON ENERGY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS AND ON TRANSPORTATION

House Concurrent Resolution 154 – Requesting the County of Hawaii to Expand the Hele-On Shared Ride Program to Serve the Entire Island of Hawaii, including Rural and Underserved Areas such as West Hawaii, North Kohala, South Kohala, Ka'u, and Puna

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports House Concurrent Resolution 154 – Requesting the County of Hawaii to Expand the Hele-On Shared Ride Program to Serve the Entire Island of Hawaii, including Rural and Underserved Areas such as West Hawaii, North Kohala, South Kohala, Ka'u, and Puna.

Accessible public transportation is vital for many people with disabilities who do not have access to private transportation. It allows them to access medical services and to participate in their community. Without it, they are confined to their homes and often live in isolation.

Federal law only requires that paratransit service be provided within a  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile corridor on each side of a fixed route public transportation service. As a result, many residents of the County of Hawaii are not eligible for paratransit services.

Within the town of Hilo, the County of Hawaii currently operates the Hele-On shared ride program. Eligible participants can schedule a same day ride with an accessible taxi, and the County will subsidize up to \$15.80 per trip (equivalent to 4 miles). The passengers are responsible for paying the balance of the rate.

Expanding this program to cover areas which are not serviced by the County's Hele-On Kako'o paratransit service would offer a valuable transportation option for residents and greatly increase their quality of life.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

KRISTINE PAGANO  
Acting Executive Director

**HCR 154 – REQUESTING THE COUNTY OF HAWAI‘I TO EXPAND THE HELE-ON SHARED RIDE PROGRAM TO SERVE THE ENTIRE ISLAND OF HAWAI‘I, INCLUDING RURAL AND UNDERSERVED AREAS SUCH AS WEST HAWAI‘I, NORTH KOHALA, SOUTH KOHALA, KA‘Ū, AND PUNA**

**Hearing Date: Thursday, April 16, 2026 at 3:30 p.m.**

**Conference Room: 229**

Dear Chair Wakai, Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs and Committee on Transportation:

We submit this testimony in **support** of HCR 154 on behalf of Enterprise Mobility, which includes Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Alamo Rent-A-Car, National Car Rental, and Enterprise Commute (Van Pool).

Enterprise Mobility supports this measure which advances mobility options and transportation equity across Hawaii Island. Enterprise currently operates a vanpool program on Hawaii Island, providing reliable daily transportation for hundreds of residents commuting from communities such as Pāhala, Ocean View, Nā‘ālehu, and Hilo.

Enterprise is a strong partner to Hawaii County in advancing its transportation demand management goals. Fleet vanpools currently serve a wide range of employers on the island, including farms, hotels, and the Kona International Airport. In addition, Enterprise’s partnerships help expand access to affordable shared transportation for local residents.

Enterprise is committed to helping the state and county expand sustainable, flexible transportation solutions for Hawai‘i’s communities. HCR 154 will strengthen the tools available to support these mobility options.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.