

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 02 , 2026

RE: H.R. No. 146

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.R. No. 146 entitled:

"HOUSE RESOLUTION 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,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to request 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.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the State Council on Developmental Disabilities and one individual.

Your Committee finds that reliable, affordable, and accessible transportation is essential for residents to access health care, employment, and other critical services, yet significant gaps remain for individuals living in rural and underserved areas of the island of Hawai'i. Currently, the Hele-On Shared Ride Program operates only in east Hawai'i, leaving communities in west Hawai'i, North and South Kohala, Ka'ū, and Puna without access to comparable on-demand transportation services. This measure improves transportation equity and access for all

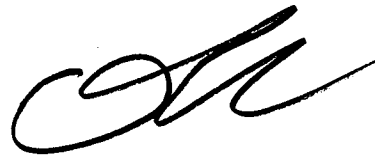


residents by requesting the expansion of the Hele-On Shared Ride Program island-wide and encouraging collaboration and strategic implementation with appropriate stakeholders.

Your Committee notes that should the County of Hawaii expand the Hele-On Shared Ride Program, it should ensure that the expansion does not cause any disruption to existing public transportation routes.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Transportation that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of H.R. No. 146 and recommends its adoption.

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



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DARIUS KILA, Chair



