

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
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March 31, 2026

The Honorable Representative Darius K. Kila, Chair
House Committee on Transportation
The Thirty-Third Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Kila and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: HCR154/HR146 – 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/HR146, 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/HR146.

Sincerely,

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

Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator

HR-146

Submitted on: 3/28/2026 7:48:49 AM

Testimony for TRN on 3/31/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Support

154 HCR 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.