

**ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I AT MĀNOA
2465 Campus Road, Campus Center 211A
Honolulu, HI 96822**

Senate Resolution 04-15

IN SUPPORT OF A MORE FAVORABLE UPASS STUDENT RATE

BE IT ENACTED BY THE UNDERGRADUATE SENATE:

- WHEREAS*, the 102nd Senate of the Associated Students of the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa (ASUH) is the elected body representing approximately 14,000 undergraduate students; and,
- WHEREAS*, the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa is predominately a commuter campus in which majority of students either take the bus or drive to school; and,
- WHEREAS*, including the graduate student population, over 20,000 students currently attend the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa and there are 3,300 lower campus stalls available for parking, yielding a ratio of approximately 6:1 students to stalls; and,¹
- WHEREAS*, in order to alleviate traffic and reduce the amount of people having to drive to school, measures were taken to encourage alternative transportation, especially by utilizing TheBus service to school; and,
- WHEREAS*, Section 13-2.1 (j) of the Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 1990, as amended, authorizes the City to enter into an agreement with colleges and universities for a public transportation pass program; and,
- WHEREAS*, in 2009, ASUH in conjunction with the City and County of Honolulu (City) agreed to implement such a program that allows students to ride TheBus for an equitable, reasonable, and fiscally prudent fare rate; and,
- WHEREAS*, the 2-year UPASS pilot program which started in Fall 2010 at the cost of \$20 a semester was issued to all UHM full-time undergraduate students as a mandatory fee and later increased at the cost of \$30 a semester that started in Fall 2012; and,
- WHEREAS*, In the Fall 2013 semester, 15,068 students picked up their U-PASSes; and,
- WHEREAS*, the 2-year UPASS pilot program started in Fall 2010 at the cost of \$20 a semester issued to all UHM full-time undergraduate and graduate students, excluding Medical, Law and Outreach College students ; and,
- WHEREAS*, UHM and the City agreed to renew the 2-year UPASS pilot program starting in Fall 2012 at the cost of \$30 a semester because of its success in its first 2-year implementation; and,

¹ Shoup et al., 2001 Unlimited Access Survey prepared by the UCLA Institute of Transportation Studies, School of Public Policy and Social Research.

APPROVED BY THE 102ND SENATE ON SEPTEMBER 03, 2014

WHEREAS, on May 01, 2014, the Department of Transportation Services of the City and County of Honolulu drafted a new UPASS contract for Spring 2015 until Fall 2016; and,

WHEREAS, the new 2-year UPASS program will charge \$50 a semester at the start of Spring 2015, and increase to \$75 a semester at the start of Spring 2016, which is a 150% more than the current UPASS rate; and,

WHEREAS, ASUH conducted a survey via MyUH Portal during Fall 2013 in which accumulated 1386 student responses; and,

WHEREAS, approximately 60% of the student body uses TheBus as their primary mode of transportation; and,

WHEREAS, approximately 41% of the student body is not willing to pay more than \$30 per semester for the UPASS, with only 13% in favor of a rate of \$50 per semester; and,

WHEREAS, approximately 90% of the student body supports the UPASS program beyond its 2-year contract; and,

WHEREAS, the sudden increase in the UPASS fee could result in students wanting to opt-out of the program possibly causing a significant increase in the fee among the actual beneficiaries of the UPASS; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, while the 102nd ASUH does recognize the significantly discounted rate the City currently offers for the UPASS, we believe that such a sudden increase could adversely affect the university and the surrounding community; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, the 102nd ASUH believes that it is in the best interests of both the City and University to come in terms with a more favorable UPASS rate; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, the 102nd ASUH strongly supports alternative transportation measures that greatly alleviates traffic problems and reduce our need to drive to school; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 102nd ASUH hopes the success of the UPASS will continue with many more years to come with a compromise that satisfies both the City and the University by having a more favorable UPASS rate; and,

FINALLY, NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution shall be sent to: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents, President David Lassner, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Interim Chancellor Robert-Bley Vroman, Vice Chancellor for Administration, Finance, & Operations Kathy Cutshaw, Vice Chancellor for Students Francisco Hernandez, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Students and Dean of Students Lori Ideta, Graduate Student Organization President Michelle Tigchelaar, Honolulu City Mayor Kirk Caldwell, Honolulu City Council Chair Ernie Martin, Honolulu City Council Transportation Committee Chairperson Breene Harimoto, Honolulu Department of Transportation Services Director Michael Formby, and Ka Leo O Hawai'i.

APPROVED BY THE 102ND SENATE ON SEPTEMBER 03, 2014

Roll Call:

Ayes: Vice President Zakimi, Treasurer Takara, Secretary Belisario, Senators-at-Large Lee, Nishihara, Onishi, Senators Baxa, Bradley, Elarco, Grunenwald, Kamakea, Kawagishi, Kamoshida, Kwon, Mandado, Mitsui, Nguyen, Oshiro, Oto-Pale, Samiano, Sanchez, Sasabe, Schulz, Sy, Tagaban [25]

Nays: [0]

Abstentions: [0]

Introducers: Sean Mitsui, Colleges of Arts and Sciences Senator; Cassandra Belisario, Secretary; Scott Nishihara, Senator-at-Large