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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT TO  
EQUALIZE TRANSIT BENEFITS AND SUBSIDIES FOR ALL STATE  
EMPLOYEES REGARDLESS OF MODE OF TRANSPORTATION.

1           WHEREAS, section 132(f) of the Internal Revenue Code, known  
2 as the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, allows  
3 employers to offer qualified transportation benefits for transit  
4 passes, parking, bicycle commuting, and van pool rides on a pre-  
5 tax basis, providing employees with an opportunity to save money  
6 on federal, state, and Federal Insurance Contributions Act  
7 (FICA) taxes and thereby increasing their take-home pay; and

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9           WHEREAS, since 2007, the State, through the Department of  
10 Human Resources Development, has operated a public  
11 transportation benefit program, The Pre-Tax Transportation  
12 Benefit Pilot Program, that allows certain State executive  
13 branch employees who live and work on Oahu to purchase monthly  
14 bus passes, fare coupons for The Handi-Van, and vouchers for the  
15 cost of vRide vanpool rides through payroll deductions taken  
16 before taxes are calculated; and

17  
18           WHEREAS, although Act 45, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012,  
19 sought to make benefits similar to the Pre-Tax Transportation  
20 Benefit Pilot Program available to more employees by authorizing  
21 the chief executives of all State Executive and Judicial Branch  
22 entities and the Mayors of the counties to establish  
23 transportation benefit programs, numerous state employees are  
24 still denied the opportunity to participate in such a program  
25 and realize the pre-tax savings; and

26  
27           WHEREAS, for many years, the State has offered its  
28 employees the ability to pay for monthly parking privileges at a  
29 Department of Accounting and General Services controlled lot  
30 located at or near the employee's workplace through pre-tax  
31 payroll deductions; and



1           WHEREAS, in addition to the savings for purchasing the  
2 employee parking passes pre-tax, the parking privileges are  
3 offered at a rate of approximately one-third of the public rate  
4 for parking in the same State lots so that employee parking  
5 rates in the Honolulu downtown area, for example, are \$30 to \$60  
6 per month prior to any pre-tax savings, which is a fraction of  
7 the cost to park in a nearby private lot; and  
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9           WHEREAS, the cost of a monthly adult bus pass on Oahu is  
10 \$60 and the State does not reduce the cost through a subsidy for  
11 its employees; and  
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13           WHEREAS, State employees who travel to work by bicycle,  
14 foot, or private car-sharing do not receive any transportation  
15 subsidy or other fringe benefit even though their modes of  
16 transportation reduce the number of cars driving on the State's  
17 roads and parking in state lots; and  
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19           WHEREAS, a pre-tax payroll deduction, subsidy, or other  
20 comparable benefit for public transportation, walking, biking,  
21 and car-sharing for all state employees would further encourage  
22 greater use of alternative transportation means, in addition to  
23 making compensation for state employees more equitable; now,  
24 therefore,  
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26           BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
27 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
28 Session of 2015, that the Director of Human Resources  
29 Development, in consultation with the Department of Accounting  
30 and General Services as necessary, is requested to develop and  
31 implement a comprehensive pre-tax public transportation benefit  
32 program for various modes of transportation that equalizes the  
33 transportation benefits, including subsidies, available to all  
34 state employees, regardless of mode of transportation; and  
35



36           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Human Resources  
37 Development is requested to submit a report to the Legislature  
38 no later than 20 days before the convening of the Regular  
39 Session of 2016 on the progress made toward implementing the  
40 program; and



# H.R. NO. 150

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human Resources  
3 Development and the Comptroller.  
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OFFERED BY:

  
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MAR 13 2015

