

ORDINANCE NO. _____

BILL NO. 95 (2026)

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTERS 11.03 AND 11.05,
MAUI COUNTY CODE, ON PROMOTING MAUI BUS RIDERSHIP AND
EXPANDING THE FARE-FREE BUS PASS PROGRAM

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI:

SECTION 1. This Ordinance's purpose is to promote Maui Bus ridership by expanding eligibility for the fare-free bus pass program and authorizing the Director of Transportation to suspend enforcement of fares for special events up to 14 days in a fiscal year. This Ordinance is intended to advance the Climate Action and Resiliency Plan's directive "to reduce residents' and visitors' dependence on single passenger vehicles."

SECTION 2. Section 11.03.010, Maui County Code, is amended to read as follows:

"11.03.010 Fare structure. A. Except as otherwise provided in subsections B and C, bus fares apply to every person using the County bus system, and every person riding the County bus system must pay the applicable fare in the annual County budget ordinance.

B. No bus fare applies to an infant riding on the lap of an accompanying adult, except that the adult may not carry more than one infant on the adult's lap.

C. No bus fare applies to anyone who presents a valid fare-free bus pass~~]~~ or presents a current form of identification issued by an agency or institution that demonstrates eligibility for a fare-free bus pass under subsection 11.03.015(A).

D. Unless otherwise approved by resolution, the director may suspend enforcement of payment of bus fares in this section for not more than 14 days total during any fiscal year to accommodate permitted special events, parades, emergency closures, or similar

activities if the county council is notified at least 14 days before the suspension, unless impractical to do so because of a disaster or emergency transit disruption.”

SECTION 3. Section 11.03.015, Maui County Code, is amended to read as follows:

“11.03.015 Fare-free bus pass program. A. A fare-free bus pass program is established. A fare-free bus pass must be issued upon application to anyone who: [is fifty-five]

1. Is 55 years of age or older[; is paratransit].

2. Is paratransit eligible[; has].

3. Has a physician-certified disability fixed route card[; has].

4. Has a medicare card[; has].

5. Has a valid student identification card [and is twenty-four years old or younger; or is].

6. Is a County of Maui employee with a valid County identification.

7. Is demonstrating financial need.

B. The department may contract with a private party to [be the director’s designee and] administer the fare-free bus pass program, including [the creation] creating and [distribution of] distributing application forms, [processing of] processing applications, determining qualifications for a fare-free bus pass, and communicating [to] with applicants about [the] their application status. [of their applications.]

C. A person is demonstrating financial need under subsection A if they are a Maui County resident whose household income during the past calendar month or year was equal to or less than [200] 300 percent of the poverty threshold in the most recent poverty guidelines for Hawai‘i published by the United States Department of Housing and Human Services. The director [or the director’s designee] must determine an applicant’s income and residency by reviewing any reasonably reliable documentation submitted with the application, such as a household income verification; certification of financial need from a social service agency; or proof of the receipt of temporary assistance for needy families, supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits, or supplemental security income benefits.

D. The director [or the director’s designee] must publish and make available to the public an application form that describes the fare-free bus pass program and qualification standards. The director [or the director’s designee] must determine whether an applicant qualifies for a fare-free bus pass within [twenty-one] 21

days after receiving a completed application and within seven days[,] issue a fare-free bus pass or provide written notice of denial and the reasons for denial. After receiving a denial notice, an applicant may submit additional information for the director to [consider as to whether or not the qualifications set forth in subsection A have been satisfied.] reconsider the applicant's qualifications. The director [or the director's designee] must determine whether an applicant is qualified for a fare-free bus pass within [twenty-one] 21 days after receiving additional information to consider.

E. Anyone who receives a fare-free bus pass will remain qualified for the pass, without a new application, for [twelve] 12 months.”

SECTION 4. Section 11.05.070, Maui County Code, is amended to read as follows:

“11.05.070 Fare. A. Any person issued an ADA paratransit service card under this chapter and companion utilizing the ADA paratransit service [shall] will pay the fare as set forth in the annual County budget ordinance.

B. A personal care attendant [shall] will not pay [no] a fare when accompanying an ADA eligible individual.

C. Unless otherwise approved by resolution, the director may suspend enforcement of subsection 11.05.070(A) for not more than 14 days total during any fiscal year to accommodate permitted special events, parades, emergency closures, or similar activities if the county council is notified no later than 14 days before the suspension, unless impractical to do so because of a disaster or emergency transit disruption.”

SECTION 5: Material to be repealed is bracketed. New material is underscored. In printing this bill, the County Clerk need not include the brackets, the bracketed material, or the underscoring.

SECTION 6. This Ordinance takes effect on approval.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND
LEGALITY:



KRISTIE M. WRIGGLESWORTH
Deputy Corporation Counsel
Department of the Corporation
Counsel
County of Maui

LF2026-0647

2026-06-18 Ord Amd Sec 11.03 & 11.05 (PAF 26-113)

INTRODUCED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of two stylized, cursive letters that appear to be 'G' and 'J', positioned above a horizontal line.

GABE JOHNSON