

Comfort in the Commute

A problem in Hawai'i is the quality, dependability and access to public transportation, more specifically TheBusHEA.

Not belittling the privilege given but as a young adolescent that commutes from Nānākuli, Hawai'i to Honolulu, Hawai'i every week day to and from school, I see many features on the bus that could be enhanced which would benefit all individuals despite their personal situations.

I have been a passenger on both the old and the new buses that were recently developed. I do not know why the models have changed. Many passengers including myself do not favor the new bus models over the old. The new buses look "pretty" with nice blue seats, but the comfort and shape of the chair is not preferred over the old bus chairs. The new seats can easily make someone's butt sore and uncomfortable especially if the individual has a long commute on the H-1 just as I do.

As a young girl that spends almost four hours a day on the bus, I definitely see many different personalities and I observe peoples' life conditions. For example, I notice a mother and her son that commute further than me. My bus stop is across the State Capitol, in front of the Eternal Flame, and my destination is near Sack N Save in Nānākuli. This mother and son commute from Downtown all the way to the Wai'anae Homeless Shelter, and I notice they always have books. I assume books borrowed from the Honolulu Library. I also see other High School and college students from St. Louis High School, Sacred Hearts Academy, St. Andrew's Priory, Kamehameha Kāpalama High School, Roosevelt High School, Farrington High School and Damien High School and college students from Hawai'i Pacific University. Adding pull

is related to the vision of Mr. Ching as the majority of passengers that ride the bus are of the minority group in terms of financial status. People have long commutes and some individuals cannot afford an automobile, or the gas, or the parking money for every day of the week.

However, I can see making an effort to give comfort through simple features such as a pull out table tray so our time is not wasted just sitting in a chair, or compartments to clear aisles making it more safe for every passenger, and keeping the bus clean can be achieved.

This positive change for the future will make someone's long commute not so bad after all.