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MEDIA RELEASE

Bill 59 (2009) A Bill Relating to Transit

In response to several community requests to address the safety and health of our public transit users, I worked with Councilmember Nestor Garcia to draft legislation that would create a comprehensive ordinance to regulate the activities on city transit properties, including public transit vehicles and passenger facilities. This would include our bus system, the proposed fixed guide-way system, special transit vehicle and all associated facilities. The goal was to come up with a code of conduct to ensure the safety, security, comfort and convenience of the public transit users. When these goals are met the users of the public transportation system will be more likely to regularly use public transportation. If our city is going to promote the use of public transportation now and in the future then we have to ensure the riding public is safe, secure and comfortable.

This bill was drafted based on the King County, Washington ordinance for a code of conduct relating to public transportation and is a starting point to initiate discussion on this issue. Our democratic process will allow for a constructive discussion on what the public desires on this issue and what is appropriate for our own City and County of Honolulu. I welcome the public's comments and ideas as we discuss this bill further.

For further information please contact Councilmember Rod Tam at 216-5454.

End