**FTA 5317  
5317 Program: New Freedom**

**Applicant Criteria**

The State of Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) is soliciting FTA 5317 New Freedom applications from **qualified private non-profit organizations and state and local government, metropolitan planning organizations or public transit agencies** seeking federal capital assistance for the development and implementation of transportation services. This program goes **beyond the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and is intended to help persons with disabilities access employment and employment-related services.**

**Program Overview**

The goal of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5317 New Freedom formula grant program is to provide additional tools to overcome existing barriers facing Americans with disabilities seeking integration into the work force and full participation in society. Lack of adequate transportation is a primary barrier to work for individuals with disabilities.

The New Freedom Program is authorized under the provisions set forth in the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy For Users, SAFETEA-LU, enacted on August 10, 2005, as codified at 49 U.S.C. 5317.  The Secretary may make grants to recipients for new public transportation services and public transportation alternatives beyond those required by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, ADA, 42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq., that assist individuals with disabilities with transportation, including transportation to and from jobs and employment support services*.*

**The Non-Urbanized Program is a Statewide Funding Program.** For eligible Capital projects, the federal grant program allows up to an 80% federal cost share, with the remaining 20% balance (non-federal funds) to be provided by the applicant. For eligible Operating projects, the Federal grant allows a 50% federal cost share, with the remaining 50% balance (non-federal funds) to be provided by the applicant.

If there are any questions regarding this matter, please contact Ryan Fujii at telephone (808) 831-7984; fax (808) 831-7995; or e-mail ryan.fujii@hawaii.gov.