

TP 106 136243



United States Department of the Interior



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Pacific West Region
1111 Jackson Street, Suite 700
Oakland, California 94607-4807

IN REPLY REFER TO:

A8817(PWR-C)

JAN 09 2006

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DTS
TRANS PLANNING

Department of Transportation Services
City and County of Honolulu
650 South King Street, 3rd floor
Honolulu, HI 96813
Attn: Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project
www.honolulutransit.org/get_involved

Dear Sir:

This comment concerns the Honolulu High Capacity Transit Corridor Project and its impact on the safe arrival and departure of visitors to the USS Arizona Memorial, a unit of the National Park System. The USS Arizona Memorial receives 1.5 million visitors annually who arrive at the Visitor Center by public transit or private car.

The National Park Service understands the project is studying how to improve the ability of people to move in the highly congested east-west corridor between Kapolei and the University of Hawaii at Manoa. We also understand that over 60 percent of Oahu's population lives with the area served in this corridor and that the population is projected to grow.

Several of the alternatives do not consider a High Capacity Transit stop at the USS Arizona Memorial, instead proposing a single stop for the stadium across King Kamehameha Highway from the Memorial. The National Park Service opposes this concept because it encourages some of the 4,000 daily visitors to attempt the dangerous walk across this busy dual road into the Visitor Center rather than wait for the shuttle. Further, it will discourage or confuse our visitors about taking public transit, including bus service, increasing the number of cars attempting to make the dangerous left hand turn into the Memorial.

We believe these safety concerns point to the reason why the public and the Corridor Project will benefit from a transit stop for the USS Arizona Memorial, the most popular tourist destination on Oahu.

Thank you for providing this comment period. We remain interested in this project.

A copy of this letter has also been sent to the above website.

Sincerely,

Jonathan B. Jarvis
Regional Director, Pacific West Region

