

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

650 SOUTH KING STREET, 3RD FLOOR
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
Phone: (808) 768-8305 • Fax: (808) 523-4730 • Internet: www.honolulu.gov

MUFI HANNEMANN
MAYOR



MELVIN N. KAKU
DIRECTOR

RICHARD F. TORRES
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

August 21, 2007

The Honolulu Advertiser
Letters to the Editor
P. O. Box 3110
Honolulu, Hawaii 96802

Dear Editor:

Recently Councilmember Ann Kobayashi wrote that she is in support of a fixed guideway bus system. In that same letter, she stated her opposition to “a bus system, such as the Bus Rapid Transit System” and agreed that the proposed bus fixed guideway “is not a busway system” either.

Frankly, she appears to be confused.

We are not aware of any existing bus fixed guideway system in the world that is either a busway or a bus rapid transit.

Kobayashi’s letter went on to state that the “technology discussed at a recent Transportation Committee meeting is a fixed guideway system using rubber tires, i.e. buses, instead of rail.”

The bus system briefing that was presented at the Transportation Committee meeting on August 2, 2007, featuring the European-made Phileas vehicles which she has been touting, is a bus rapid transit system, identical to the system that was proposed by the former City administration and opposed by Kobayashi.

While the Phileas buses can be equipped with an automated steering system and all wheels steering, the proposed modification does not transform the vehicles into a different transit alternative. The presenters of the Phileas system stated that their proposal was based on operating the vehicles in the dedicated lanes on streets and on freeways to save cost. The Phileas bus proposal is exactly what was proposed under the former City BRT project which Kobayashi opposed.

The Honolulu Advertiser
Letters to the Editor
Page 2
August 21, 2007

We have asked Councilmember Kobayashi to share additional details with us on her proposed bus fixed guideway that is neither a busway nor a bus rapid transit but fits within the definition of the Locally Preferred Alternative selected by the Council on December 22, 2006.

Sincerely,

(Signed)

MELVIN N. KAKU
Director