

From: Kaku, Melvin N
To: Hamayasu, Toru
CC: Torres, Richard F
Sent: 4/14/2007 11:52:34 AM
Subject: FW: Rail Transit

Redacted

-----Original Message-----

From: ncbleecker@mac.com [mailto:ncbleecker@mac.com]
Sent: Friday, April 13, 2007 9:35 PM
To: Kaku, Melvin N
Subject: Rail Transit

Department of Transportation Services
City and County of Honolulu
650 South King Street, 3rd floor
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Sirs,

My comments regarding the ill-conceived plan to build a fixed rail transit in Honolulu are hereby offered, although it seems clear to this taxpayer that the City had long ago made up it's mind about the project and alternate options were never going to be even considered. This project is designed for the profit of the land owners along its route and those contractors who will be chosen to build it, and the politicians who are ramming it through on their behalf. It's effect on traffic congestion will be negligible at best. The cost, for building it and for its operation into the infinite future will be a huge burden on all taxpayers of the island, even though it will only be available to serve a small proportion of the populace. Most of the people who want to see the train built want it in hopes that other people will use it so that they can have the highways to themselves. How many people are going to drive down from the valleys, pay to park their car in a lot near the station, pay to ride the rail for a few miles as it stops frequently along the way, then disembark and take a bus to where they need to go?

If you doubt that this project is dictated by the wishes of certain politically powerful constituencies consider the route selected recently for it by the City Council. That it would not go to the University of Hawaii at Manoa or the Airport is ludicrous. Obviously the taxi and bus companies that service the Airport would not wish to have their lucrative concessions there threatened. Their influence is what really counts with the politicians, not the true needs of the population at large.

If the true intent was to do something to reduce traffic congestion on the freeway then HOT lanes and a vastly improved bus circuit would be the best, and most economical solution, but that is not even being considered by the City.

Sincerely,
N.C.Bleecker

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