

**From:** Kaku, Melvin N  
**To:** Hamayasu, Toru  
**CC:** Torres, Richard F  
**Sent:** 4/14/2007 12:28:52 PM  
**Subject:** Fw: rrs\_kaku1

**Redacted**

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

From: Bobbie Slater  
To: Melvin N Kaku  
Cc: Donna Turchie  
Sent: Apr 13, 2007 5:34 PM  
Subject: rrs\_kaku1

April 13, 2007

Mr. Melvin Kaku  
Director, Dept of Transportation Services  
City and County of Honolulu  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mr. Kaku,

I am opposed to the rail proposal and feel that the City and OMPO have not been truthful with the public for the following reasons.  
It was not necessary to start collection of the tax before a plan was in place. The public was led to believe that the FTA required the collection, which is patently a lie. The FTA only requires a designation of a future tax or revenue source.  
The City never dealt with the burden of this additional tax. Hawaii's General Excise tax is the most regressive the country. At no point did the City or OMPO address the economic consequences of this tax. We already have the second highest homeless problem in the country. Obviously this will exacerbate the problem.  
The Mayor has admitted that this is not enough money to finish the project, but neither the City nor OMPO have ever explained to the public where the rest of the money will come from. Obviously it will come from taxes. Again the poor and elderly will be hurt the most. Not to address this in an open manner was blatantly dishonest.  
The City and OMPO have not reached out to the public to show what this train and the stations along the line will look like. One can only assume that their reasoning is that the visual blight would cause alarm.  
Other communities that will be affected by the train have not been told about their particular circumstances. For, example, Manoa has not been told that the train will run over the freeway, becoming one of the most egregious environmental blights around.  
The City and OMPO have never told the public that there is nothing sustainable about rail. The public has been led to believe that it will save energy, with out ever addressing the energy coast to construct the train, let alone to run it.  
The City and OMPO have not been open with the fact that their own data show that traffic will be far worse in the future with rail than it is today.  
Neither City nor OMPO have ever reached out to the public to explain the impacts of building an elevated, heavy and noisy train along our waterfront. They have never reached out to the public to tell us that they will block our view of the waterfront that we have always maintained we would protect.  
We have asked for responses to these questions and do not get appropriate answers.  
The League of Women Voters tried to get a televised discussion between train supporters and opponents and our largest television station was willing to air the show on prime time. Neither your staff nor anyone in the Administration would agree to take part. The City and OMPO are apparently unwilling to meet with opponents in an open, public format.  
Hopefully the City and OMPO will give me answers to these concerns and we can then start having an open, public dialog on this the biggest and most expensive public works project in our history.

Very truly yours,

Rosalie Slater

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