

From: Kaku, Melvin N
To: Hamayasu, Toru
CC: Torres, Richard F
Sent: 4/10/2007 4:35:27 PM
Subject: Fw: Rail

Redacted

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

From: Pegge Hopper <peggeh@lava.net>
To: Kaku, Melvin N <mkaku@honolulu.gov>
CC: 'Donna Turchie' <Donna.Turchie@fta.dot.gov>
Sent: Tue Apr 10 16:00:50 2007
Subject: Rail

To whom it may concern,

I have been a gallery owner in downtown Honolulu for 24 years. The first 20 years were very difficult as Downtown/Chinatown had a reputation for drugs, and unsavory situations.

For years, storeowners in this area have persevered to change the character of this historic district. About 4 years ago we started First Friday, one night a month when all the galleries would be open to the public. We provided food, music and whatever we could to get the public to come here and make this a thriving center for culture and the arts.

Just within the last year we have seen results as more and more people come here, and more shops, restaurants and galleries have opened.

Now, we learn that the Mayor's train will run, elevated, along the foot of Nuuanu Street – on the waterfront. It will be a true eyesore and the 70+ decibels will be a huge distraction.

No one told us there would be a huge five-story station across from historic Aloha Tower. No one came to discuss this with any of the organizations I belong to, or that have been involved in our revitalization effort.

After all of our hard work, cost and perseverance, all will be lost when this train ruins the character of our little community. Had the City bothered to tell us these things we would have packed up years ago rather than work so hard to attract people here.

They tell us that there are no alternatives to discuss other than doing nothing. This is a sham and an insult to our intelligence.

One of the solutions I strongly support is MANDATORY SCHOOL BUSING. When school is not in session traffic is cut in half. It doesn't take a genius to figure out that perhaps 50% of A.M. traffic consists of parents driving kids to school!

Pegge Hopper