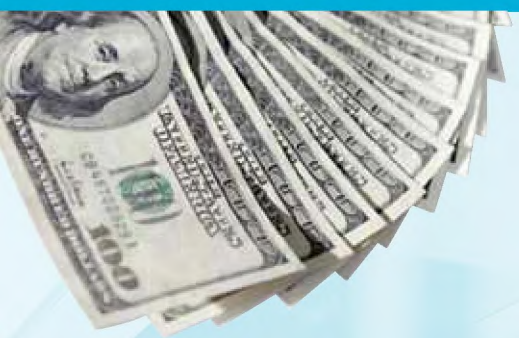
MARCH 2009

Honolulu On The Move

NEWSLETTER OF THE HONOLULU HIGH-CAPACITY TRANSIT CORRIDOR PROJECT

Rail and the Economy



- Independent projections show building rail transit will generate more than $1 billion for Hawai'i's economy in 2010.*
- By 2011, rail's construction activity is anticipated to create more than $2 billion for Hawai'i's economy.*
- Rail systems are an economic stimulus returning up to $6 for every $1 invested.**
- Federal funds will have "Buy America" clauses, assisting our nation's economic recovery.
- By reducing future traffic congestion and improving mobility, rail will make it easier for local businesses to deliver goods and services.
- Honolulu's rail system is endorsed by business and labor groups such as the Chamber of Commerce of Hawai'i, the West O'ahu Economic Development Association, the Hawai'i Government Employees Association, the United Public Workers and more.

*Research by UH West O'ahu economics professor Lawrence Boyd

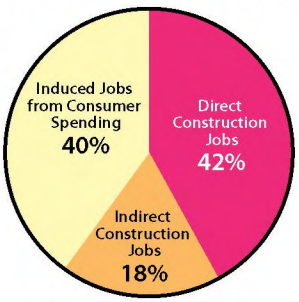
**American Public Transit Association

Rail Construction Will Employ 10,000 Workers a Year

Aloha!

The project is beginning to gear up to build Honolulu's planned rail transit system and create new jobs in the midst of the state's recession.

Employment Created by Rail Construction*



*Person years of employment.

The bidding process has started to construct the initial 6.5-mile segment connecting East Kapolei with Pearl Highlands. The City has issued the first invitation to bid and will select a builder this fall for the segment, with groundbreaking at the end of the year. Construction of the entire 20 mile system should take nine years.

When rail construction begins in 2010, it will be a job-creating engine vital to the economic recovery of our state. The project's construction activity is expected to employ about 10,000 people a year on average, according to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Economic models show that about 42 percent of the employment will be directly related to construction: engineers, architects and skilled workers like carpenters, masons, ironworkers, and others, along with managers and office staff.

About 18 percent will be indirect jobs in additional industries as workers spend their paychecks on essentials like food, housing, clothes, transportation and school supplies, as well as entertainment and travel.

Based on nine years of construction activity, the project will create:

- 38,000 person-years of direct employment for engineering and construction workers.
- 17,000 person-years of indirect employment in industries like retail, food and beverage and service industries.
- 36,000 person-years of induced employment resulting from an overall expansion of the regional economy due to the construction.

A person year of employment is one job created for one person for a year.

Local business reporter Howard Dicus noted in his blog, "rail is the only major project already on the boards that fairly qualifies as economic stimulus."

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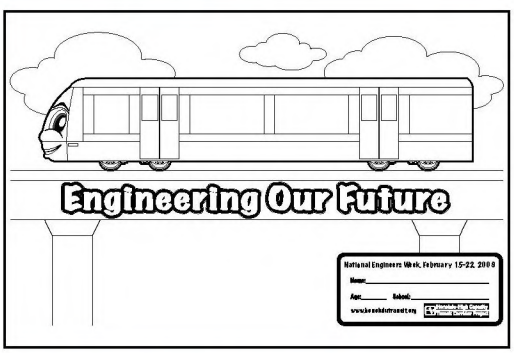
Contact Us

You can reach us by calling the project hotline at **566-2299** or by submitting your comments to **www.honolulutransit.org**.

Call or email us if you would like to receive an electronic version of this newsletter or would like be removed from our mailing list.

Engineering Our Future



Question: What has two hands, 10 fingers, colorful crayons and a big smile?
Answer: A keiki at the "Engineering Our Future" display at Kahala Mall.

As part of Engineering Week, a national event that celebrates the profession's contributions, the project staff created "Engineering Our Future" to educate young people about what trains are, how they work and what engineers do.

More than 300 pre-schoolers and elementary students (and a few parents) let their imaginations run free as they colored trains and guideways. Afterward, children and their parents read brightly-colored displays about engineering and watched an animated fly through of the rail route.

Many keiki took their colored trains home with them, while others pinned their trains to the booth walls for other children and parents to see.

The Hawai'i Council of Engineer Societies recognized "Engineering Our Future" as the most educational display and awarded it the platinum award. Several of the student drawings are online at the project's website: **www.honolulutransit.org**.

If you would like keiki engineering materials for a classroom or school, please contact the project at **566-2299** or at **info@honolulutransit.org**. We will be happy to provide coloring sheets and a presentation for the class.

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