

# HART

HONOLULU AUTHORITY for RAPID TRANSPORTATION

*HART WEEKLY eBLAST | FEBRUARY 21, 2014*

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## *COURTS RULE IN FAVOR OF RAIL PROJECT*



*Work on the Honolulu rail project will continue to move forward following two favorable federal court rulings.*

In separate decisions, two federal courts have ruled that the Honolulu Rail Transit Project did everything necessary to comply with applicable federal laws and is allowed to move forward.

A panel from the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that Oahu's elevated rail project complies with environmental, historic preservation, and other laws. And at the trial court level in the same case, Judge A. Wallace Tashima ruled that the project had properly considered and rejected a route involving an underground tunnel and ending at the University of Hawaii's Manoa campus, as an alternative to the selected elevated route ending at Ala Moana Center.

Tashima also lifted an order blocking construction and most property

acquisition activities in the City Center section of the project, which extends from Kalihi to Ala Moana Center.

HART CEO Dan Grabauskas stated, "We are pleased that both the Ninth Circuit panel and Judge Tashima ruled in our favor. These rulings reaffirm that we properly complied with the environmental process and studied all prudent alternatives. This is a great day not only for HART, but also for taxpayers of the City and County of Honolulu, who will be relieved to know we have finally come to the end of this costly legal battle."

Grabauskas added, "These rulings were essential to keeping the project moving so that we can complete all the necessary work, studies and property acquisitions in the City Center area. This will allow us to bring in this project, as promised, on time and on budget."

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## *TRAFFIC ALERT*



Farrington Highway in Ewa between Kualakai Parkway (North-South Road) and Old Fort Weaver Road is closed in both directions until April.

The eastbound lanes along Farrington Highway between Old Fort Weaver Road Loop and Kunia Road Overpass will be closed from Sunday, February 23 to Saturday, March 1. Eastbound drivers will be diverted to a temporary lane.

In Pearl City, two westbound lanes and one eastbound lane of Kamehameha Highway between Waimano Home Road and Kuala Street, including the left-turn lane into Home Depot, will be closed from Monday, February 24 to Friday, February 28 between 7:30 p.m. and 5:30 a.m. The intersection of Kamehameha Highway and Acacia Road will also be closed between 9 p.m. and 5:30 a.m. each weeknight.

Also in Pearl City, lanes along Kamehameha Highway between Kuleana Road and Puu Poni Street near the HECO-Waiiau power plant will be closed from Monday, February 24 to Friday, February 28 between 8 p.m. and 5:30 a.m. One westbound lane will remain open and westbound traffic will be diverted to a temporary lane. There will be no left turns allowed at the Kuleana Road intersection. And two westbound lanes in the same vicinity will also be closed weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 3 p.m.

The inside eastbound lane of Kamehameha Highway between Hekaha and Kanuku streets near Best Buy and the eastbound left-turn lane at the intersection of Kamehameha Highway and Kanuku Street is closed

until mid-March.

The inside eastbound and westbound lanes of Kamehameha Highway between Lipoa Place and Pali Momi Street, including one of the two left-turn lanes onto Pali Momi Street will be closed from Monday, February 24 to Friday, February 28 between 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

The inside lane of the H-1 Moanalua Freeway on-ramp near Aloha Stadium will be closed from Monday, February 24 to Friday, February 28 between 8:30 a.m. and 3 p.m.

The right westbound lane of Kamehameha Highway between Radford Drive and Halawa Drive will be closed from Monday, February 24 to Friday, February 28 between 8:30 a.m. and 3 p.m.

In Kalihi, both the eastbound and westbound left lanes of Dillingham Boulevard from Laumaka Street to McNeill Street will be closed from Monday, February 24 to Friday, February 28 between 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

The northbound lane of Iwilei Road between Sumner Street and North King Street will be closed Monday, February 24 and Tuesday, February 25 between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m.

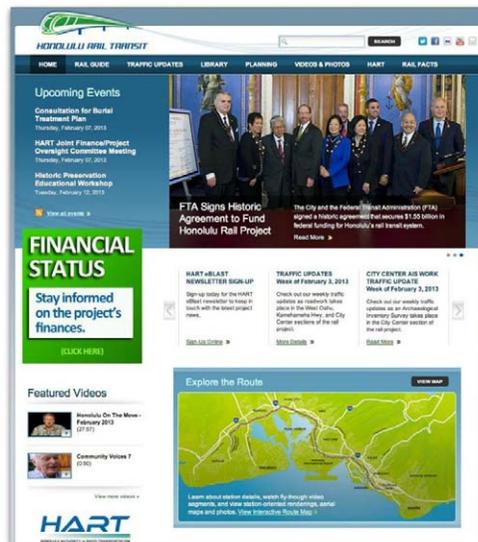
The eastbound and westbound left lanes of Nimitz Highway between River Street and Punchbowl Street will be closed from Sunday, February 23 to Thursday, February 27 between 8:30 p.m. and 4 a.m.

Halekauwila Street between Cooke Street and Ahiu Street will be closed from Monday, February 24 to Friday, February 28 between 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.

And two eastbound lanes of Halekauwila Street between Cooke Street and Kamani Street will be closed from Monday, February 24 to Friday, February 28 between 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Motorists will be contraflowed to the other lanes.

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