
From: Day, Elizabeth (FTA)
To: Nelson, Ketrina (FTA)
CC: Eckmann, Alex (FTA); Holland, Tonya (FTA); Ryan, James (FTA); Borinsky, Susan (FTA)
Sent: 3/25/2010 9:19:25 AM
Subject: RE: Contact Tool Question - Honolulu

Ketrina
This contact us on Honolulu is not a question. It is someone simply quoting what has been put in recent newspaper articles. Please respond with the "canned response" for Honolulu that we developed in coordination with Dave a while back. I have tweaked the canned response a bit (in red) to be more responsive to the financial issues raised in this contact us submission.

Thank you for your recent submission regarding the Honolulu High Capacity Corridor Rail Project. FTA is working closely with the project sponsor, the City and County of Honolulu, on this important project that is expected to improve travel time in the corridor for a large number of users. The project is currently in the Preliminary Engineering phase of project development. FTA will continue to assess the project, **including its financial plan**, as the sponsor seeks approval into the next phase of development, Final Design. As announced in the President's FY 2011 budget proposal, FTA expects the project to be ready for a construction grant agreement sometime before the end of FY 2011 (September 30, 2011). We are currently working with the City and County of Honolulu to address the comments submitted during the formal public comment period that is part of the ongoing environmental review process. FTA's responses to these comments will be available when the Final Environmental Impact Statement is published. ~~Please note the decision of how best to provide transportation services within a specific geographic region, including the choice of mode, alignment, or whether a project is elevated versus at grade, is not made by the Federal government. Instead, it is the responsibility of local decision makers and the project sponsor.~~

Thanks,
Beth

From: Holland, Tonya (FTA)
Sent: Thursday, March 25, 2010 1:42 PM
To: Day, Elizabeth (FTA)
Cc: Eckmann, Alex (FTA)
Subject: Contact Tool Question - Honolulu

Beth: In the past Alex has handled all Honolulu Contact Tool questions with you. Since he is on vacation, I am forwarding this question to you. Could you please answer it. Again, we 48hrs. for a response. Thanks!

Requestor: gm@alfurtado.com

Date Submitted: 03/21/2010 04:31 PM

Status: New

Category: Planning & Environment

Question: Tax revenue for rail falling short this year
Financing not meeting even lowered forecast

Tax collections needed to pay for Honolulu's planned \$5.3 billion train are slipping below the level forecast for the current fiscal year.

The city expects to raise a net \$164 million, or about \$13.7 million a month, in the 12 months ending June 30. However, through the first eight months of the fiscal year monthly collections from the half-percentage-point tax averaged \$13.1 million, according to calculations based on state Department of Taxation figures.

During the next four months the city needs to collect an average of nearly \$14.9 million a month

to meet its tax revenue target.

Construction of the 20-mile East-Kapolei-to-Ala-Moana train was supposed to begin last December but has been delayed by a prolonged federal review of environmental impacts.

Through the first eight months of this fiscal year, transit-tax collections are down 1.6 percent to \$104.6 million, compared with the same period a year earlier. In February the transit tax generated \$13 million, which was down 2.3 percent from February 2009.

The city had initially expected to raise \$198 million this fiscal year, but that forecast was reduced last year when the slowing economy took a toll on tax collections.

State tax collections overall have fallen amid declining visitor arrivals and rising unemployment.

Answer:

Notes: (These notes are for internal FTA use. They are not available to users who do not have access to the Contact Us Admin Tool)

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