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GOVERNOR

February 24, 2010

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Dear Representatives:

I am disappointed that you signed a letter urging me to ignore my obligation to the residents of this state to perform an objective assessment of the proposed Honolulu Rail Transit system.

As elected State officials, I would have expected you to support efforts to ensure that the environmental, economic, social, and cultural impacts of the planned rail line are fully and fairly addressed.

Ultimately it will be your constituents, not the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) or the U. S. Department of Transportation, that will pay the majority of the costs to build and operate the system. It behooves all of us to ensure that we understand the obligations we are placing on our constituents and their ability to shoulder these obligations over the next several decades.

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Letter to Representatives

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The FTA has stated there are legitimate financial issues associated with the project and has called for an independent assessment of the financial plan. They also recognize my responsibility to serve as the accepting authority for the final environmental impact statement. I take these duties seriously and will exercise them if and when the final environmental impact statement is submitted to me.

I would encourage you to review the draft environmental impact statement and the August 2009 financial plan and share with me your analysis of these documents.

Sincerely,



LINDA LINGLE