

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

530 SOUTH KING STREET, ROOM 300 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 523-4141 • FAX: (808) 527-5552 • INTERNET: www.honolulu.gov

FILE COPY

8. 46. 8, 8

MUFI HANNEMANN
MAYOR



November 7, 2007

Mr. David McClain
President
University of Hawaii
2444 Dole Street, Bachman Hall
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

Dear President ~~David~~ McClain,

I am responding to your letter of October 18, 2007, further expressing the position of the University of Hawaii West Oahu regarding the transit alignment.

Although you assert that the University's position is that we should "further discuss the issues" and "provide additional details" on what UHWO has done in the past, frankly, as related by City officials to UHWO staff, the time for discussion and documenting the past is over. The city is now taking action, namely, preparing preliminary engineering and draft environmental documents in accordance with its alignment so as to ensure timely implementation of the transit project.

Our Department of Planning and Permitting finds it contradictory to receive an invitation to further discuss the transit alignment through East Kapolei when at the same time, UHWO submits its zone change application that essentially rejects the city's alignment. How can this be viewed as a demonstration of good faith to further discuss the alignment question? Please be aware that it will be challenging to support the zone change if it is not consistent with city plans, which includes the transit alignment. Further, while you note time and money concerns related to West Oahu campus planning, please be aware that the City is also incurring the same costs due to this unresolved matter.

Notwithstanding DPP's frustration with UHWO's inconsistencies, I am willing to personally convene a meeting with you on the alignment through East Kapolei on the condition that there is a demonstration on the state's part to provide timely, unconditional authorization in writing for the use of the state-owned parcel located at the makai/diamond head corner of Farrington Highway and North-South Road for the fixed

Mr. David McClain
Page 2
November 7, 2007

guideway project. Otherwise, the only alignment that would not depend on this parcel is what DPP has revealed to UHWO in the past and is still proposing. This option would allow the City to proceed with our transit project on a timely basis because an agreement can be reached with that landowner. If the University of Hawaii is truly serious about a transit alignment "that would be of benefit to all," an authorization in writing by the appropriate State entities is critical.

I look forward to hearing from you on a mutually agreed upon time for such a meeting to take place.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mufi Hannemann", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mufi Hannemann
Mayor



UNIVERSITY of HAWAI'I SYSTEM

David McClain President

October 18, 2007

The Honorable Mufi Hannemann Mayor, City and County of Honolulu 530 S. King Street Honolulu Hale Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Mayor Hannemann:

OCT 25 8 24 AM '07 DTS TRANS PLANNING

Thank you for your letter dated October 2, 2007 regarding our preferred transit alignment. As you know, UHWO's project team has met frequently over the past year and a half with the Department of Transportation Services, primarily Toru Hayamasu, and with staff from the Department of Planning and Permitting, primarily Kathy Sokugawa and Bob Sumitomo, to discuss transit and other planning issues. While I don't think it productive to get into a protracted debate over "who said what when," I would like to respond to your characterization of UHWO's position as being inconsistent.

On the contrary, UHWO has consistently maintained that it would like to see two transit stations, one on or near Parcel 22 and another on or near Parcel 2. Further, UHWO has repeatedly attempted to comply with changes made by the City on the path of the transit line.

We initially understood that the line would follow Farrington Highway, then proceed down the North South Road with a station near UHWO's commercial/retail property (Parcel 22) and end with a station serving the eventual Hunt commercial/retail zone (Parcel 2) and the proposed Kroc Center. It was our understanding that this transit alignment was approved by the City Council as the Minimum Operating System (MOS).

Since then, the City has changed its position several times on the preferred station locations and the route of the transit line. Each time, UHWO made a good faith effort to modify its land plan to accommodate the City's shift in position. I should add that we have consulted with one of the leading transit experts in the country, Steve Kellenberg of the Irvine, CA planning firm EDAW, and presented our suggested alignment based in part on Mr. Kellenberg's recommendations.

The record shows that we have been open to reviewing several possible transit line alternatives. The only non-negotiable issue for us is that the transit line not run down the middle of the UHWO's property and the proposed Hunt residential development. We continue to believe that it serves no useful purpose to pursue such an alignment. In fact, it would pose significant concerns regarding aesthetics and safety. Additionally, it would impose major problems for UHWO to program outdoor activities with an elevated transit line only thirty yards away.

2444 Dole Street, Bachman Hall Honolulu, Hawaii 96822 Telephone: (808) 956-8207 Fax: (808) 956-5286

An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution

Mayor Mufi Hannemann
October 18, 2007
Page 2

You indicate that this has been a challenging process for the City; let me assure you that it has been a frustrating and challenging process for us as well. Considerable time and money have been invested in trying to reach agreement with the City and other area stakeholders on a transit alignment option that would be of benefit to all.

We believe strongly that bypassing UHWO would not achieve that objective. We understand that a decision regarding the path of the transit line will significantly impact future generations of students, faculty, staff, and residents. I hope the City is still willing to discuss a viable transit line alternative such as the one I discussed in my letter to you dated September 21, 2007. As I stated in that letter, we believe that our recommended alignment provides the best opportunity to maximize ridership in the region over the next decade and beyond.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like further information about our position. Should you be open to meeting with us to discuss the issues I've tried to address, we can provide additional details regarding what UHWO has done to comply with the various requests that have been made by the City.

With best wishes,



David McClain

c: K. T. Hayamasu, Chief of Transportation Planning, C&C DTS
K. Sokugawa, Division Chief of Planning & Permitting, C&C DPP
B. Sumitomo, Division Chief of Site Development, C&C DPP
G. Awakuni, Chancellor, UH West O'ahu