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**From:** Ossi, Joseph <FTA>  
**To:** Fisher, Ronald <FTA>  
**CC:** Sukys, Raymond <FTA>; Marler, Renee <FTA>; Ryan, James <FTA>  
**Sent:** 10/25/2007 4:38:32 AM  
**Subject:** RE: letter from Honolulu councilmembers

One definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result. Let's be sane and do something different this time.

The success will depend on the skill of the mediator they hire. A very good mediator is very expensive, but is more often than not able to bring together the disparate views of reasonable people.

Joe Ossi  
FTA Office of Planning and Environment  
(202) 366-1613

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**From:** Fisher, Ronald <FTA>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2007 9:59 AM  
**To:** Ossi, Joseph <FTA>  
**Cc:** Sukys, Raymond <FTA>; Marler, Renee <FTA>; Ryan, James <FTA>  
**Subject:** FW: letter from Honolulu councilmembers

Joe,  
I think there is merit in the approach you've suggested compared to the one I wrote, which is attached as the second file. My approach would not necessarily end the debate, but tells them how to pursue it in a particular direction. Nevertheless it does seem that we owe them an answer to the question they asked. Answering their question and suggesting mediation may be the best strategy. In the end no amount of mediation is likely to fix the political conflict on the council, and that's the current problem. Other comments?

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**From:** Ossi, Joseph <FTA>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 24, 2007 8:39 PM  
**To:** Fisher, Ronald <FTA>  
**Cc:** Sukys, Raymond <FTA>; Marler, Renee <FTA>  
**Subject:** FW: letter from Honolulu councilmembers

Ron:  
As Jim Ryan was bemoaning, we are going to end up with a 4th failed project in Honolulu if we don't do something radical to move the people there toward a consensus. I am therefore proposing a radically different approach in the attached draft response to the Councilmembers' letter. Mediation doesn't always work, but it often does, and we are working with people who really need help in listening to and understanding other people.

Joe Ossi  
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