From: Biehl, Scott (TCC)
To: Kurio, Phyllis
CC: Hamayasu, Toru
Sent: 2/23/2006 8:42:20 AM
Subject: RE: mahalo

Aloha Phyllis and Toru. Mahalo for your kind note. It was great to see the both of you again.

Just to let you know, I've spoken with a number of planners and NEPA practitioners in FTA headquarters about your project, all of whom sympathize with your predicament with Cliff Slater. There is a consensus of opinion in DC, however, that you would be best advised to add Slater's HOT lane alternative to the range of alternatives in your AA/DEIS. Although you don't have sufficient Federal-aid Highway funding available to help finance the construction of such a facility, theoretically, HOT lanes are eligible for Federal-aid Highway funding, thus, they would fall within a "reasonable" range of alternatives, as required by NEPA, absent any physical or functional reason for excluding them. In the long run, moreover, we would reduce both the City's and FTA's risks of litigation if we were to address Slater's proposal at the outset. Indeed, quite possibly, you'll be able to develop ample data and analyses to justify a decision not to carry Slater's proposal into an FEIS.

Let emphasize: I don't speak for FTA Region 9. I'll speak with the Regional Office separately about all of this in the near future, and I'm sure you'll hear from them directly on this subject.

All the best,

Scott

From: Kurio, Phyllis [mailto:pkurio@honolulu.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2006 2:07 PM
To: Biehl, Scott (TCC)
Cc: Hamayasu, Toru
Subject: mahalo

Aloha kakahiaka (good morning), Scott. It was good seeing you in San Francisco. Thank you so very much for taking the time from your busy schedule to meet with the Honolulu attendees last Thursday. We value your advice and appreciate your interest our project.

Today is the first day of sunshine I've seen since last Wednesday in San Fran. It rained hard over the windward side of Oahu during the 3-day weekend. A flash flood watch was issued for Kauai, Oahu, and Molokai. Thunderstorms rolled in last night and the flash flood watch was extended to Maui. This morning, parts of Maui (including Kihei) were under an urban and small stream flood advisory. Hopefully, you will have good weather when you visit your dad next month.

Please let us know if you're ever in Honolulu. We would enjoy getting together with you.

Malama pono,

Phyllis