

1065 Ahua Street
Honolulu, HI 96819
Phone: 808-833-1681 FAX: 839-4167
Email: info@gcahawaii.org
Website: www.gcahawaii.org



GCA of Hawaii

GENERAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

Quality People. Quality Projects.

July 14, 2010

TO: THE HONORABLE TODD APO, CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL

RE: TESTIMONY ON THE HONOLULU HIGH CAPACITY TRANSIT CORRIDOR PROJECT FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Good afternoon Chairman Todd Apo and members of the City Council.

I am Sherman Wong, speaking for the General Contractors Association. The General Contractors Association (GCA), an organization comprised of over five hundred and seventy (570) general contractors, subcontractors, and construction related firms.

The Honolulu Rail Transit Project's final environmental impact statement points out the positive impacts rail will have on the local economy and the environment.

Rail is the biggest immediate job stimulus available in the state of Hawaii today. It would put thousands of our people back to work, and they will then put this money back into our economy. We have never seen a recession of this magnitude and its devastating effect on the industry and its work force. We see firsthand how it hurts families, hurts their dependents and places entire households in jeopardy. The solution is job creation of such a magnitude that it would put the greatest number of our people back to work in the shortest time.

The greater and more important reason for the rail project is for improving the quality of life for our future generations and for the long term protection of our environment. It can provide the greatest shift away from our overdependence on imported crude oil and the emissions of millions of tons of carbon dioxide. The state has a strategic energy plan that will start reducing our dependence on imported crude oil by 2020. The rail project will offer the quickest, easiest and biggest transition of all our transportation systems toward the use of clean renewable energy sources, whether it is solar, wind, geothermal, ocean, bio-fuels or any combination thereof that would produce clean electricity.

Rail is transportation infrastructure necessary for our island's quality, growth and prosperity. But a significant side benefit is the economic stimulus effect it would bring to our entire state now.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our views on this issue.

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