

Dan Inouye

U.S. SENATOR FROM HAWAII



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SENATOR INOUE'S STATEMENT FOLLOWING FEDERAL APPROVAL OF THE HONOLULU TRANSIT PROJECT'S FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

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WASHINGTON— Senator Daniel K. Inouye issued the following statement today after the Federal Transit Administration approved the Honolulu rail transit project's final environmental impact statement.

"I am pleased to learn that the Federal Transit Administration has released the Honolulu transit project's final Environmental Impact Statement for federal agency review and public distribution. This is a critical step in advancing the project. For too long, too many of Hawaii's working families have been forced to sit in gridlock on their way to and from work. The transportation of our citizens and visitors is critical to the maintenance of Honolulu's economy. More than 70 percent of the state's residents live and work on Oahu and a disproportionate number of those residents spend a majority of their morning and early evening battling traffic," said Senator Inouye. "I remain committed to this project and will continue to do everything I can at the federal level to fund the work and ensure its timely completion. This project will help Hawaii decrease its dependence on imported oil by providing an affordable alternative to driving. The construction and maintenance of the rail transit project and the commercial and residential development that rises around it will create thousands of jobs and create work for a construction industry struggling to emerge from the worldwide recession. We have debated and studied this project to an excessive extent over the last 20 years and now is the time to move forward."

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