
From: Kenna, James (TRO-09)
To: Biehl, Scott (TCC); Ossi, Joseph (TPL); Weeks, Dwayne (TPL)
CC: Sukys, Ray (TRO-09)
Sent: 2/20/2003 7:10:48 AM
Subject: FW: Honolulu BRT article

I have said it before and will say it again
They could not even decide on a bus garage site - Campbell vs Alipai for years.

Scott, you may want to share the Randy Roth info w TPL.
HNL is pressuring us to advance an environmental document as we speak including a meeting here tomorrow.

-----Original Message-----

From: Page, Paul (TRO-09)
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2003 8:32 AM
To: Kenna, James (TRO-09); Sukys, Ray (TRO-09); Turchie, Donna (TRO-09)
Subject: Honolulu BRT article

Interesting article because it says that federal government would pick up 90% of the rail cost.

Newsletter of the National Corridors Initiative
Feb. 10, 2003

Honolulu ponders rail vs. bus

A proposal by Hawaii Senate President Robert Bunda to "dust off our plans for a light-rail mass transit system" to alleviate Oahu's traffic congestion received mixed reactions on January 15.

"Those of us in the legislature must be willing to revisit this proposal to break the gridlock of indecision," Bunda said in his speech at the opening of the state legislature. "If we fail, we will surely choke on the mounting traffic problems of a growing population."

The Honolulu Star-Bulletin reported Mayor Jeremy Harris said he hopes that talk of a rail system will not derail his Bus Rapid Transit plans.

"I don't think anything should be done that's going to disrupt that," Harris said. "Now that doesn't mean (BRT) has to be the exclusive solution."

The Senate Transportation Committee is proposing to pay the state's share of the rail cost - 10 percent, with the federal government paying 90 percent - with an increase in the gas tax.

The proposal comes a year after the legislature passed a bill to cap Hawaii's gas prices.

"As for our matching funds, I am looking at the possibility of a 2-cent gasoline tax for Oahu residents only," Senate Transportation Chairman Cal Kawamoto said.

House Speaker Calvin Say said Bunda would have to come up with the source of financing for the project.

"I would be very much in favor because of the traffic conditions that we have," said Say.

Gov. Linda Lingle said she was surprised by Bunda's rail proposal but welcomes the discussion.

"Overall his point was a good one, and that is, we should be willing to entertain new ideas as well as ideas that maybe hadn't gone forward in the past," Lingle said. Lingle does not support the mayor's BRT proposal. She has her own proposal, which she plans to reveal later, she said.

Thanks! PP