

Council Chairman Donovan Dela Cruz
Honolulu City Council
City Hall
Honolulu, HI 96813

Testimony in Support of Bill 79, CD1 Relating to the Selection of Rail as the Locally Preferred Transit Alternative

Chairman Dela Cruz and members of the City Council:

My name is John Cheung of CC Engineering, and past President of the Building Industry Association of Hawaii. I am speaking today as an individual and my views are my own.

Now is time to move forward with a rail alternative. We have had this debate for over thirty years and it is time to move forward. The traveling public spends too much time stuck in traffic. Time lost in traffic congestion is lost productivity, and lost time that can be better spent at work or on leisure activities or with our families. These are quality of life issues that are important to all of us.

A publicly funded rail transit system will also infuse new capital into our economy and stimulate new development around transit station locations and along the transit route. Rail transit can bring in new opportunities for residential housing, including affordable housing, new retail and commercial development, and incorporate concepts of “Smart Growth” and “livable communities” in our existing urban core.

It is imperative that the Council select the full 28-mile route, from Kapolei to UH Manoa. It is important to connect major activity centers like Pearl Ridge Shopping Center, Aloha Stadium and Pearl Harbor, Honolulu International Airport, downtown and Ala Moana Center, the university as well as future growth areas in Ewa and UH West Oahu.

Transit works well in Hong Kong where I grew up, and I am confident it will work here. Please approve Bill 79.

Thank you.

John Cheung, CC Engineering
BIA-Hawaii Past President
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