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**From:** Ryan, James (FTA)  
**To:** Eckmann, Alex (FTA)  
**CC:** Day, Elizabeth (FTA)  
**Sent:** 2/5/2010 6:11:33 AM  
**Subject:** RE: Contact Us Comment on Honolulu

Alex:

We must some standard response to contacts like this. I remember when the Hiawatha light rail line in Minneapolis was approaching decision time, we were flooded with postcards from an organized campaign of opposition -- and had some standard response that we used in reply.

Regarding your draft, I don't think that we have any mechanism that considers comments like this one in FTA decisionmaking. We say, and believe, that project selection is a local matter. We deal with project sponsors and have specific mechanisms -- New Starts ratings, NEPA, and MPO endorsements -- that define the rules for those interactions. We anticipate that individuals will participate in local decisionmaking rather than in our evaluation of proposed projects.

So, I think that our reply has to be less specific about the impact of the incoming comment in future FTA review of the project. And that doesn't leave much other than "thank you for your comment" which is, obviously, not very satisfying.

Jim

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**From:** Eckmann, Alex (FTA)  
**Sent:** Fri 2/5/2010 10:55 AM  
**To:** Day, Elizabeth (FTA); Longo, David (FTA); Ryan, James (FTA)  
**Subject:** FW: Contact Us Comment on Honolulu

How about this ?

Thank you for your comments on the Honolulu High Capacity Transit Project. Your concerns will be taken into consideration in the review of this project in the future.

Alex

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**From:** Eckmann, Alex (FTA)  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 04, 2010 2:35 PM  
**To:** Longo, David (FTA)  
**Subject:** Contact Us Comment on Honolulu

Dave,

How extensive a response must we provide to comments received through Contact Us like the one below on Honolulu? Would it be enough to say "thank you" and not much else?

Alex Eckmann

## View Contact Us Request

**Requestor:** [Demarcj49@hotmail.com](mailto:Demarcj49@hotmail.com)

**Date Submitted:** 02/03/2010 04:18 PM

**Status:** New

**Category:** Planning & Environment

**Question:** The majority of people do not want rail, please stop funding this white elephant that will eventually bankrupt the city of Honolulu and destroy the environment. Honolulu's streets are composed of potholes, our sewers need 1 billion dollars in repairs. Fees are being imposed for

city services that once were paid for by our taxes, and the end result will be a three story rail eclipsing our beautiful mountains and valleys. How do you sell a concrete paradise to a world that is on the brink of economic disaster? You can't, you either have to keep the island beautiful and try to promote tourism or you can develop it until it looks like the island of Manhattan and produce something else. But please don't expect tourists to fork over their hard earned dollars to come and look at a twenty mile wall stretching from Kapolei to Ala Moana covered with graffiti. Mayor Hanneman is building this rail purely for political reasons. It is against the people's will. Please stop funding now!!!

Sincerely,  
Joseph DeMarco