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**HONOLULU RAIL TRANSIT PROJECT TO RECEIVE \$55 MILLION THIS FISCAL YEAR**

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WASHINGTON—The Honolulu Rail Transit project will receive \$55 million from the Federal Transit Administration for the current fiscal year, Senator Daniel K. Inouye, Senator Daniel K. Akaka, U.S. Rep. Mazie Hirono and U.S. Rep. Colleen Hanabusa announced today.

The \$55 million in New Starts funding is identical to the amount requested in President Obama's FY2011 budget.

The level of funding Honolulu received is significant since the total amount of funds for New Starts for FY 2011 was reduced from the \$1.998 billion level enacted in FY 2010 to \$1.597 billion, a 20% or \$401 million reduction in the total program.

"I am very pleased that the federal government recognizes the importance of this critical transportation project. Federal funds are hard to come by in the current budget climate and the fact that Honolulu will receive everything the President asked for is very encouraging. This project will bring welcome relief to thousands of commuters who are forced to spend hours in their cars on congested roadways. We have planned this project and debated its merits for decades and we must press forward. I remain committed to this project and will continue to do everything I can to direct federal funds to the work and ensure its timely completion," said Senator Inouye.

"I appreciate the Obama Administration's continued support of the Honolulu rail project. Rail will mean shorter commutes, more time with family, less pollution, and local jobs we truly need. This federal funding commitment is an important step towards a better planned Oahu," said Senator Akaka.

"Today's announcement shows that, despite the budget battles going on in Washington, when it comes to projects that will create jobs, reduce congestion, and create transportation opportunities, the President and Congress stand with the people of Hawaii." said Congresswoman Mazie Hirono, a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. "I will continue to work with the rest of Hawaii's Congressional delegation to ensure that we receive the full \$1.55 billion in federal funds."

"These funds are not only a reflection of the federal government's continued commitment towards the Honolulu Rail Transit Project, but it also shows that President Obama and Congress understand how much Hawaii needs this mass transit option" said Congresswoman Colleen Hanabusa. "This project will ease gridlock on Oahu's roadways and help create jobs for our residents. Hawaii's Congressional Delegation will continue to work to support this project."

For more information please visit: <http://www.HonoluluTransit.org>

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