

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sept. 1, 2011

HART PANEL RECOMMENDS ROBERT BUNDA AS TENTH BOARD MEMBER

(Thursday, Sept. 1, 2011)— A working group of five members of Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART) Board of Directors today recommended Robert Bunda as the final member of the 10-member board.

The full board will vote on the recommendation at its next Board meeting on Friday, Sept. 16 after considering public comments and Bunda's application, said HART Board Chairwoman Carrie Okinaga.

Bunda served in the Hawaii State Legislature in both the House and Senate for more than 25 years from 1983 to 2010, representing the Wahiawa, Haleiwa, Mokuleia and North Shore area and was senate president from 2001 to 2006. Bunda, a Wahiawa resident, is an insurance broker and serves on the board of directors of the State Public Land Development Corporation under the state Department of Land and Natural Resources.

"Mr. Bunda's long career in public service, his understanding of the budgetary and legislative process, and his work in shaping public land use policy for the state will be invaluable assets to the HART board," HART Vice Chairman Ivan Lui-Kwan said. "We fielded a strong group of 16 applicants, with each bringing unique qualities to the table. In the end, we felt that at this stage in our process, Mr. Bunda's qualities would best serve the Board in helping us oversee and move this historic project forward."

Public comments regarding Bunda's nomination can be made during the Sept. 16 HART meeting at 8 a.m. at Mission Memorial Annex conference room, 550 S. King Street or via email at tdossantos@honolulu.gov. Comments can also be faxed to (808) 768-5110 or mailed to, HART Board of Directors, 1099 Alakea Street, 17th Floor, Honolulu, HI 96813, Attention: HART Board Administrator.

If his nomination is approved by the board, Bunda would be the final voting member of the board. Other volunteer board members include William "Buzz" Hong; Don Horner; Keslie Hui; Damien Kim; Lui-Kwan; and Okinaga, who all serve with no compensation. Ex-Officio board members are State Department of Transportation Director Glenn Okimoto; City Department of Transportation Services Director Wayne Yoshioka; and City Department of Planning and Permitting Director David Tanoue, who serves as a non-voting member.

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