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HART completes the first in a series of embossed columns

The Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART) has completed its first embossed column as part of a series of special column designs connected with the project's station development program.

The column is one of eight that will support the guideway for the Ho`opili station in East Kapolei and will feature the same pattern. All of the project's 21 stations will have patterns unique to the area's ahupua`a. The patterns are designed to tell the historic and cultural stories of each community where the stations are located.

The Ho`opili embossed columns honor the natural elements that nourished the agricultural lands and the story of the Honouliuli ahupua`a. The pattern depicts the flow of wind, coral representing the foundation and the area's beginnings, sea salt beds, and the symbolic first planting of the `ulu tree that grew plentiful in this area. The design also incorporates rain and the sun as it rises over Pu`uokapolei, which marked the seasons for planting and harvesting crops.

"These columns are designed to reflect the richness of the history and the culture of the ahupua`a along the rail route," said HART Executive Director and CEO Dan Grabauskas. "These columns are just one of many things that will make our system unique."

The embossed column designs were done by local architect and designer Daniel Kanekuni with WCIT Architecture.

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