

From: Anne Stevens [Astevens@scd.hawaii.gov]

Subject: Planning and Sustainability Committee Testimony

April 1, 2008

Dear Chair Okino and Members of the Planning and Sustainability Committee:

Please accept the attached memo testimony from the Ala Moana/Kakaako Neighborhood Board for today's hearing on item #4 – Public Infrastructure Map (PIM) amendments relating to the alignment and stations of the Honolulu High Capacity Transit Corridor Project. This memo has been transmitted as well to DPP.

Sincerely,
Anne Stevens, Chair
Ala Moana/Kakaako Neighborhood Board #11

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March 28, 2008

TO: HENRY ENG, DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND PERMITTING
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
650 SOUTH KING STREET, 7TH FLOOR
HONOLULU, HI 96813

FROM: ALA MOANA KAKA'AKO NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD #11

SUBJECT: PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE MAP REVISION FOR THE HONOLULU
HIGH-CAPACITY TRANSIT CORRIDOR PROJECT (2008/PIM-1)

The Ala Moana Kaka'ako Neighborhood Board #11 anticipates mostly negative impacts on the community we represent from the Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor. There would be limited benefit to the residents of the neighborhood, while residents will endure increased noise and traffic due to the proposed rail line. In addition, the elevated rail line is likely to attract graffiti artists, adding to the unsightliness of the project.

We are a densely-populated residential neighborhood with easy access to the current bus system. Noise, graffiti, and ever-increasing traffic are common complaints at our Board meetings. Building the Honolulu High-Capacity Transit System through Kaka'ako will worsen these problems, especially since lanes of traffic will be reduced by the elevated rail. In addition, feeder traffic to the transit system adds to the current density.

Construction of this project is going to create catastrophic intrusions into citizens' lives, as a result of noise, serious interference with traffic flow, and creation of elevated structures beyond what are current heights at Ala Moana Center. Aesthetically, the rail system and transit stops will detract from the beauty of Hawaii for residents and tourists alike. The view planes in both the mauka and makai directions will be marred by the 60'-80' rail structure.

In short, our neighborhood has much more to lose than it has to gain by the building of the rail line through the district. Quality of life will decrease. Complaints will increase. Residents will be inconvenienced by the existence of the rail. Chances are the rail system will rarely be used by residents of the district. **Since the costs far outweigh the benefits of building the system, the Board opposes the system as currently planned and therefore opposes the proposed revision to the Ewa, Central Oahu, and Primary Urban Center Public Infrastructure Maps.**

Sincerely

Anne Stevens, Chair
Ala Moana/Kaka'ako Neighborhood Board #11