



#3 Bill 10

To: Honolulu City Council Transportation Committee
Gary Okino, Committee Chair

From: Ron Lockwood, AARP Volunteer

Re: Bill 10 (2008), CD2
2/12/09 at 9 a.m.
Committee Meeting Room

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CITY CLERK
HONOLULU, HAWAII

Chair Okino, Committee members: My name is Ron Lockwood, I'm an AARP volunteer testifying on behalf of AARP Hawaii State Director, Barbara Stanton. AARP is a membership organization of people 50 and older with more than 158,000 members in Hawaii. We are committed to engaging our members on important community issues like transit-oriented development, that would increase our members' mobility options and ability to live at home in the community for as long as possible.

AARP is concerned that Bill 10, CD2 may be dispensing with the neighborhood planning process. The 2010 deadline does not take into account that most stations will not be built for some years. We believe that the community would be best served by a rolling time line that is connected to the build out. This would ensure time to properly involve communities in the planning process.

The city did an excellent job of engaging community members in Kapolei in the planning process. We understand that the budget may not allow for the engagement of outside consulting firms to work with the community around planning for each station area. However, we believe that the rest of the island's communities deserve the same attention and level of detail. The current timeline, as written in the bill, precludes this.

While we applaud the city's attempts to expedite the TOD process, it should not be done at the expense of the very community involvement that will directly impact the success of the project. AARP finds that where TODs have succeeded across the country, a key component of their success was early and frequent involvement of all stakeholders to identify and address specific needs and concerns. Where TODs have failed, time and again, it can be linked to insufficient community involvement and "buy in" to the process.

AARP is committed to working with you to engage the public on this issue but we recommend that there be a rolling timeline attached to estimated rail construction dates, to allow the community to be fully involved.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.