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Sent: Monday, May 18, 2009 1:51 AM
To:
Cc:
Subject: Budget Committee Testimony

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The Honolulu City Council
Budget Committee
Special Meeting, Monday, May 18, 2009, 9 a.m.

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BILL 16 (2009), CD1 - EXECUTIVE CAPITAL BUDGET AND PROGRAM

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Testimony in opposition to the passing of the capital budget, regarding
the
transit project funding

To the Chair and Members of the City Council Budget Committee

Please take a long, careful look at the way the budget, if passed, is
moving
the transit project along with no committed federal funds in sight.

As you must realize, the local money being raised for the project is
well
below estimates, and if you pass this budget out, without having enough
local funds to pay for the rail project, you must once again raise
taxes.

Remember, when the public voted in favor of the steel-on-steel train,
they
did so with the promise that taxes would not need to be raised anymore
to
build it. We were shown chart after chart of how the funding was there
to
cover the cost of the \$5+ billion project.

The federal money was always part of that equation.

Are you really prepared to begin to fund the transit project using only
local money, a move that may well jeopardize our ever getting a dime of
federal funding?

Are you really willing to break a whole lot of promises that were made
to
the public about the funding of this heavy rail project, promises that
influenced many voters?

Please put in the budget a provision that protects the local taxpayers
from
having to fund this project without federal dollars.

As our representatives, it is your responsibility to make sure the public is not misled any further regarding the funding of this massive project.

We've had enough promises; now we need leadership.