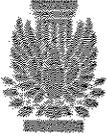


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9 June 2009



TO: Honolulu City Council Regular Meeting, 8th Session

ATTN: Todd K. Apo, Chair and Presiding Officer and Members of the Honolulu City Council

RE: **Bill 16, CD2, FD 1 Version B** Executive Operating Budget and Program (Item TF) Transit Improvement Bond Fund

Testimony of Amy Blagriff, Executive Vice President, AIA Honolulu

My name is Amy Blagriff and I am here to represent AIA Honolulu as the organization's Executive Vice President for the past 7 years.

On behalf of AIA Honolulu, I would like to offer **support of Bill 16 (2009) CD2 FD1 Version B**. I urge you to vote in favor of this amended bill which at its core will prohibit the City from spending any money to construct their planned transit project until a Record of Decision is filed by the Federal Transit Administration or a letter of no prejudice is received.

As we have testified before, the AIA **supports** a rail transit system for Honolulu and believes that a viable, flexible light rail system that is capable of running at grade or elevated as the conditions warrant, would be the best solution for Oahu. AIA urges the City Council and administration to reconsider approval and funding today that would give your tacit approval for the City's proposed fully automated and elevated hot 3rd rail system. We urge you to consider adjusting the planned project to incorporate the latest state-of-the-art technology for light rail systems, which includes low platform cars operating with intermittent third rail technology, alternating with overhead catenary wire and safe pedestrian access and crossing.

We ask you to refrain from giving a "green light" today to expend our taxpayer dollars towards this enormously complex transit mega project at a time when the EIS is still in draft form, and a record of decision has not been reached. Members of AIA and the people of Oahu are counting on your full accountability here—including adherence to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) which guides the EIS process—to allow us to fully complete the required environmental review. Only upon successful conclusion of the EIS will needed Federal funding be possible. **Again, we urge you to vote Yes for Floor Bill 1, Version B** which would add needed financial oversight to this mega project.

For additional information on AIA's position in support of flexible transit systems for Honolulu, visit www.aiahonolulu.org. Thank you.