

CITY CLERK
HONOLULU, HAWAII

From: Jay McWilliams [mailto:LBJ27@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2009 1:44 AM
To:
Cc:
Subject: City Council Meeting, June 10, 2009, 10 a.m.

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The Honolulu City Council
Wednesday, June 10, 2009, 10 a.m.
BILL 16 , CD2, FD1, Version A

From: Jay McWilliams
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Testimony in support of Version A of Bill 16, CD2, FD1

To the Chair and Members of the Honolulu City Council

As a taxpayer and small business person on Oahu trying to figure out how I will survive all the recent tax increases from the state and county, the last thing I need to be saddled with is more debt thanks to the \$917 million in bonds for the rail project being voted on here today.

Are you kidding me? Do you really think that all the folks who are losing their jobs and homes and businesses will be grateful to you for pushing through the first 6 miles of the train project -- in addition to supporting your enormous overall budget?

Have you heard what's happening to the economy lately? Do you care what it means to the working people who are being forced to support all these programs and projects?

Instead of rushing to lock the local folks into the \$5 billion rail project with no committed federal funding in place yet, could you just stop the madness for a little while? Could you try to have a realistic funding plan in place first?

With the loss of revenue and the reduction of funds being raised via the General Excise Tax, the numbers the city administration has been showing us all along for the rail project no longer add up. Isn't it time to demand that the city administration be forthcoming in explaining the true financial plan for the project first, before you put it in the budget and tie us to it

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for many years and generations to come?

You have the power to slow this train project down for a bit so that we can honestly figure out if we need it, if we can afford it, and if we can maintain it.