

June 7, 2009

To Members of the City Council
Re Saving Honolulu and Hawai'i from Economic Failure

Todd Ayo

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Save Honolulu from the Costs of a Train We Cannot Afford - At Least Think "At-Grade"

CITY CLERK

HONOLULU, HAWAII

Please take the drastic step of saving our local economy by stopping the train. The elevated steel on-steel train is going to take us down the tracks to the same economic failure that now faces millions of homeowners whose homes have lower value than their debt on those homes.

1. Hawai'i citizens do not legally or morally "qualify" for the debt on this train.
Federal money will not save the train. The tax base is not sufficient.
2. No city as small as Honolulu has sought to build a system with such a large per person cost.
If this goes forward, the value of the train will fall due to;
 - cost overruns
 - less than predicted ridership
 - reassessment showing lower value for the failed venture
 - debilitating debt
3. The inability to manage this debt will result in fiscal catastrophe at Honolulu and Hawai'i levels.

Hawai'i's recession is causing a **15% cut in public education funding.**

There is **no vision** in cutting education funding and signing a mortgage of excess lasting to our children's children. Debilitating debt will challenge the future for years to come.

And there is **no vision** in creating monstrous over-sized train stations that loom high into the air and create walls between people and the beauty of mountain landscapes and ocean waves and horizons.

Please find a way to stop the financial disaster that is about to be launched. Be courageous. We cannot afford the most expensive per person transit system in the world.

If you cannot imagine stopping the rail, **then please vote to consider at grade options to create flexibility and affordability.** An at-grade system would still meet the definition of steel-on-steel, would be more flexible and affordable, and would preserve the viewplanes through downtown and Kaka'ako to Ala Moana.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Hedlund

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Honolulu Voter

Member, Ala Moana/Kaka'ako Neighborhood Board

Member, Kaka'ako Makai Community Planning Advisory Council

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Bill 16

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