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Subject: Advertiser commentary Sun 6/26/05

Dear Governor Lingle:

Your article in today's Advertiser was very helpful to understand your perspective. I'm glad you published it.

Governor, traffic congestion on state highways is your kuleana. The state Department of Transportation - not the county - is responsible to alleviate traffic on state highways. The commute transportation crisis you refer to are on state highways.

Hence, I fail to understand why you seem to promote a rail system instead of insisting to add highway capacity and improvements for West Oahu - as prior Democrat administrations have insisted. DOT has always advocated highways, and have been very sensitive to being accused of causing more traffic congestion or not alleviating it.

- We have a mass transit system: TheBus. Many TheBus routes have been moved off service for resident commuters in favor of tourists.

- Except for the NYC 9th Av rail system, HOVways exceed rail in passengers per hour.

- The city already hesitates to add more buses. Yet, even with rail, the rail system will be dependent on more buses than presently exist in the city's fleet to feed the rail system. (Utilizing the private sector tour buses to supplement the transit system for express service has been a no-no by every Democrat and the Fasi administration.) Why is your administration not publicly insisting to apply for the half billion federal dollars for HOT lanes instead - a grade separated reversible HOTway - an elevated Zipper lane for West Oahu?

Governor Lingle, the Democrats will surely blame you for "doing nothing for traffic congestion on state highways to Kapolei." They will say that the Nimitz flyover is a long standing plan. You have not yet to come out in favor of managed lanes for West Oahu. A reversible Zipper lane in the afternoon and extension of the Zipper Lane on Ala Moana are good ideas, but an elevated HOT way is still needed to take 25% of motorists off the regular lanes on H-1.

The Transportation Reauthorization Bill in Congress today is majorly focused on funding to add significant capacity and making safety improvements to cut accidents and fatalities. For Honolulu to go in the opposite direction is unwise as FHWA and FTA dollars are available but limited - once you finance the rail system, there will be little or nothing left for a major highway. Kalaniana'ole Highway, H-2 and H-3 have served the areas of East, North and Windward Oahu. West Oahu needs a major highway addition as well.

The Transportation Reauthorization Bill is the most significant legislation that Congress deals with affecting the quality of life and to ensure economic prosperity for our nation. The State of Hawaii must follow suit to make Quality Highways for Quality Growth and Economic Prosperity.

Please be wary about making deals with the devils - in an election year, a Brutus will gladly betray empty promises made to you if you let HB1309 pass without your signature. Expecting the loyal opposition to carry out a public commitment in the next legislature, isn't that naive - you may be honorable but is there honor among thieves? Please don't misunderstand. Your administration has made great progress on highways - but there is a long ways to catch up, the challenge is huge - as highways built in the 50s are antiquated and inadequate for 21st century needs.

We implore you to VETO HB1309 and go on record for more and upgraded highways including HOT lanes instead of rail. Don't get sidetracked.

I will be sending you materials to support highways.

Mahalo, Dale Evans Charley's Taxi