

# GETTING REAL ON RAIL

Setting the record straight on anti-rail misinformation

*I support the construction of a modern rail transit system for Honolulu. As your mayor, it is my responsibility to help solve Honolulu's growing traffic problems; those that make our daily commutes more lengthy, frustrating and expensive every day. I believe rail transit will provide the alternative mode of commuting that will enable our citizens to get around in Honolulu well into the future and ensure us all a better quality of life, more time with our families and even the prospect of an affordable home in Hawaii for our children.*

*Your elected officials ... our entire congressional delegation, governor, state legislature, city council and my administration, have moved forward with this project in a very responsible, careful and transparent way. The recent State Democratic convention established a strong pro-rail plank in its new party platform. This whole process has been a model of representative democracy with public participation in action. The public has always been consulted at every step including funding, design and planning.*

*We support the peoples' right to be involved and informed. The city has been open and accessible, it is now also important that the public know all the facts, including those about the anti-rail organizers.*



Mufi Hannemann

## Who is behind the 'Stop Rail' movement in Honolulu?

### Conservative 'think tanks' & special interests keep showing up

The anti-rail issue is not just a local, grassroots effort to "let the public have a voice." It is part of a national effort to maintain the status quo by ultra-conservative groups who support the **automobile, bus, highway construction, urban sprawl development and petroleum industries.**

It is no surprise that they do not want you to know who they really are, and who is funding their effort.

### Many facades but few real members

Among the anti-rail leaders in Hawaii are Cliff Slater, Dale Evans (Charleys Taxi) and Panos Prevedouros (president, Hawaii Highway Users Alliance). They are all members of a conservative organization called the Grassroot Institute of Hawaii.

They and their handful of followers represent themselves variously as: **StopRailNow, Hawaii Highway Users Alliance, Sensible Traffic Alternatives and Resources, Inc., The Alliance for Traffic Alternatives, Let Honolulu Vote, Honolulu Traffic.com, ZeroShibai.com, TheRailScam.com and now DraftPanos.com**

Far from representing thousands of people from many diverse groups, all the organizations listed above are the creation of four people using smoke and mirrors.

This is the same pattern of rail opposition that has occurred across the county, fueled by the same collection of special interest groups.

### Mainland conservatives intrude on local debate.

Former Miss Texas Jamie Story has just moved to Hawaii and taken a job as president of the Grassroot Institute of Hawaii. She was previously a staffer with the Texas Public Policy Foundation (TPPF). TPPF has been described as a "self styled think tank with a far-right extremist agenda," and "highly biased crusaders for roadways and road-based transportation." (Light Rail Progress, August 2000)

TPPF hired a self-styled consultant, Wendell Cox, who lists among his accomplishments the defeat of rail projects in Seattle, St. Louis, Salt Lake City, Denver and San Antonio. The American Highway User's Alliance, a who's who of the trucking, auto, cement and asphalt, heavy construction and petroleum industries, has also had Wendell Cox on the payroll. The arguments used by anti-railers in Honolulu are the same ones used across the country wherever the pro-highway lobby tries to stop public transit projects.

Then San Antonio Mayor Nelson Wolff described the campaign of TPPF and Cox that killed rail there as comprised of "distortions and half truths." (Dallas Observer, 7/20/2000)

Cox is already writing letters to the editor in support of Honolulu's anti-rail effort. (Honolulu Advertiser, June 2, 2008)

### Anti-railers say they want voters to have a choice, but the petition offers NO choices.

The petition just kills what most people feel is the best choice and any form of rail or train. That leaves only highways, cars, buses and business as usual. Anti-rail protesters want us to remain dependent on things that are no longer working.

Honolulu needs real options for our growing traffic problems. We need to establish a more environmentally friendly technology and pattern of urban growth for the future of our city. A dependable, quiet and fast mode of transportation that runs on renewable energy; and a more compact, pedestrian friendly community design that fits our lifestyles and fits on our small island.

Say "no" to the people who are only "no" thinkers.

**For the real information on rail:  
Visit: [SupportRailTransit.com](http://SupportRailTransit.com), [HonoluluTransit.org](http://HonoluluTransit.org)**

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