

Feb. 1, 2009

Mr. Wayne Yoshioka  
Department of Transportation Services  
City and County of Honolulu  
650 S. King St. 3rd Floor  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Sir,

Regarding the Honolulu High Capacity Transit Project, I have concerns that are not adequately addressed in the DEIS. I will refer to this project in this correspondence as "the train". I am requesting a response as I feel these issues need further clarification. My concerns specifically relate to power outages that occur regularly in Hawaii, caused by storms as well as for unexplained reasons. Our power grid is not tied in to a neighboring state and we have little alternate power available. Our electricity system is not as modern as most other states in the US as this island chain is almost 2500 miles away from the nearest land mass. We experience unique tropical weather patterns causing regular major power outages that we are used to just dealing with.

During the recent power outage on December 26, 2008 on Oahu a representative from the City and County of Honolulu was on the radio and several people called in expressing concern about what would happen to the train during a massive power outage such as the one we were experiencing at that time. That official assured listeners there would be backup power for the train, however I feel this issue has not been adequately addressed in the DEIS.

In reviewing the table of contents I cannot locate anything about alternate generators that will take over in the event of a power outage. Could you please provide me with the location in the DEIS of the specific electricity plan for the train should a power outage such as the one that occurred on December 26, 2008 occur once the train is up and running?

I would like information on the cost of such a system, the planned operating expenses, the planned maintenance of this system, the manpower needed to operate such a system, the location of these alternate generators, and how exactly this backup plan would be implemented. I would like to see the entire backup power system described in full detail along with supporting financial estimates.

Could you please address how it would be justified as well to use the generator for the purpose of the train when hospitals, schools, and homes would need this alternate power source during this time? Please also address the affect of the loss of power on emergency vehicles who may need to get to point a to point b with no alternate route as they would not be able to use the train tracks.

Another issue that has not been adequately addressed in the DEIS is the affect of a

hurricane or earthquake on the train. I understand that during the recent hurricane in Houston Texas (Ike) their train was shut down for several days and I would anticipate the same here. I would like to know how loss of power for this system would be mitigated, and how the effects of tropical weather would be mitigated.

It is hard to imagine that if in Houston Texas it took several days to get their train up and running it would take any less time here. Everything takes longer in Hawaii. Please provide the comparison of our system vs. Houston's system as it relates to a hurricane or earthquake.

Thank you in advance for your detailed response.

Nancy Nagamine  
42 Namala Place  
Kailua, HI 96734

cc. Mr. Ted Matley, FTA  
Governor Linda Lingle