

Mr. Ted Matley  
FTA Region IX  
201 Mission St. Suite 1650  
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Sir,

Regarding the proposed rail transit system in Honolulu, and the DEIS that is currently being reviewed, I would like to point out some flaws in the process of determining the locally preferred alternative, thus flaws in the DEIS, and the outcome of the recent election.

I do not feel there was fair public input in determining the locally preferred alternative. Thus, alternatives were not evaluated in the DEIS, rather 3 different rail routes or a no build alternative.

I also feel the public was swayed using tax money to influence the vote in favor of rail.

I also feel the city council of Honolulu ignored public input on the issue and did not answer questions raised by voters.

Review the following personal experiences with this process:

Sometime in 2006: I attended my first city council meeting on the issue. Hundreds of people testified, I waited for several hours and had to leave to go back to work. It was difficult to even get in the room because of all the union members who were there.

Sometime during 2006: The city asked for input as they were determining the "locally preferred alternative". I provided my input, which was against rail and in favor of improving the bus system. I got no response other than an acknowledgement and I was put on the city mailing list so I would get their slick shiny brochures promoting their rail project every month.

November 2006: I attended a meeting at Windward Community College and testified against rail. My estimate is there were 40 people who testified, 5 in favor of rail and 35 against rail. Several city council members were there, and there was little dialog. There was no further response to any testimony.

August 28, 2007 I sent a letter to the City Council asking questions regarding what was going on (letter below and I DID NOT EVER GET A RESPONSE).

From 2007 through June 2008 2.6 million dollars of tax money was spent on advertising and "public outreach" to promote the rail project.

July 2008 through mid October 2008 unknown amounts of additional taxpayer money was spent on massive advertising blitz including print media and radio and public outreach meetings, which promoted this project and influenced the vote. These meetings were all held during October, and an 8 page, full color glossy brochure was inserted in the 3 major newspapers two weeks before the election, all paid for with tax dollars.

November 2008 outcome of the vote:

The vote was clearly influenced. 50.6% of the voters voted in favor of rail, the balance voted against or didn't vote on the issue. Had both sides had equal access to resources, then the vote would have been fair, however the City had TAXPAYER money to spend, thus the election was unfairly influenced.

Although the mayor and city powers claimed they listened to public input, from personal experience that was not at all the case. Rather, people attended meetings and provided feedback to city council members and heard nothing back. The city had no interest in listening to what people had to say.

Where is the public testimony, and where is the city's response to that testimony? What happened to everything people said? Was it totally dismissed? Where are the spending records, how much money was really spent influencing the vote?

Why did I not get my questions of city council members from August 28, 2007 answered?

This project has been handled in an underhanded fashion from day one and I feel it is my civic duty that you should be aware of the kind of manipulation that went on during the entire process. I urge you to dismiss this DEIS, it is seriously flawed.

Yours very truly,

Nancy Nagamine  
42 Namala Place  
Kailua, HI 96734

CC Wane Yoshioka, City and County of Honolulu  
Governor Linda Lingle, Governor of the State of Hawaii

**Letter faxed to City Council Aug 2007**  
**August 28, 2007**  
**What is going on at Honolulu Hale?**

Since August 7 I have read every editorial regarding the 5 billion dollar fixed rail project that has been printed in the Honolulu Advertiser. Results as follows:

In favor of the project: 4

Against the project/ see better alternatives: 12

Pro arguments are quite weak with the predominant ones being that we need rail because people are tired of sitting in traffic and that we have talked about it long enough, let's just go ahead with it. (It has been proven that the rail project will not help with traffic congestion.)

Opposing arguments:

The cost/ value relationship is not justifiable.

The bus is flexible, it is easy to add buses and subsidize them, costing far less than rail. Busses go to where the people are, throughout the island. (Flexible, not fixed. And serve more people.)

Many busses can be running during crunch time before 8 AM which will help people more.  
Toll roads will cost far less, be self-supporting, AND relieve traffic as proven in Tampa.  
The rail system will not help traffic congestion.  
Hanneman is leading the city in to fiscal abyss. Homeowners BEWARE.  
The federal money we hope to get will be nothing relative to the overall cost.  
Fixed rail goes from point A to B and back, what about C, D, and E and so on?  
There will be low rider ship on rail as in other cities.  
It is inconvenient, need too many transfers, total travel time far too long.  
Honolulu is too small to afford this system.  
The system will be outdated by the time it is completed.  
15 years is too long to wait, other solutions would offer more immediate relief.  
Any government run project is plagued with maintenance problems and the system will likely fall in to disrepair.  
Dismal record of similar public works projects including calamitous cost over runs, misleading cost-benefit calculations, exaggerated development effects, overlooked and ignored environmental problems, and violation of established practices of good governance, transparency, and public participation in decision making.

City council members, are you paying attention to what your constituents want?  
Everyone agrees traffic is a problem, but we want solutions, not government works projects that will not help the problem.  
Why will you not at least do what Ann Kobayashi suggests and look at what appears to be a better system? This is starting to smell like a skunk, and you know what they say “if it smells like a skunk there probably is one”. We need to find the skunk! (Follow the money.)  
Speaking of smells, why did the city run an ad in the Advertiser on 8/22 asking people to protest the possible EPA requirement to add secondary treatment facilities at Sand Island for 1.2 billion dollars? It is OK for you to spend 5 billion of TAXPAYERS money on something that will not fix the traffic problem, yet ask people to protest spending 1.2 billion to fix the treatment facilities? I don't like you spending my money to run this ad!  
You have now agreed to pay 86 million to PB Americas (formerly Parsons Brinckerhoff) for an environmental impact study for the train? I don't like you spending my money for this either.  
Please, can someone explain to me what is going on at Honolulu Hale?

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