
HOUSE RESOLUTION

STRONGLY URGING THE HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL TO RECONSIDER THE
SELECTION OF THE SALT LAKE ALIGNMENT AND TO COMMIT TO
CONSTRUCTION OF THE FIXED GUIDEWAY SYSTEM ALONG THE
AIRPORT/PEARL HARBOR ALIGNMENT.

1 WHEREAS, traffic congestion in Honolulu's east-west
2 corridor is intolerable for many commuters and affecting the
3 quality of life for those who must spend many non-productive
4 hours in traffic; and

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6 WHEREAS, a planning study conducted by the Oahu
7 Metropolitan Planning Organization (OMPO) concluded that the
8 already overburdened existing transportation infrastructure will
9 not be able to accommodate the level of growth expected over the
10 next 20 years; and

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12 WHEREAS, the OMPO study also predicted that the traffic
13 delay will increase 500% by the year 2030 if only the currently
14 planned projects are implemented to improve our streets and
15 highways; and

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17 WHEREAS, the OMPO study further identified that a high-
18 speed, high-capacity transit system in the corridor would be a
19 viable and cost-effective component of the future transportation
20 infrastructure; and

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22 WHEREAS, following the OMPO study, the City and County of
23 Honolulu initiated a detailed study to evaluate future transit
24 improvements, specifically a fixed guideway system that is
25 physically separated from the roadway and traffic congestion;
26 and

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28 WHEREAS, the federal government requires that the City
29 follow a set of strict evaluation guidelines to analyze the
30 various alternatives under consideration in a fair and



1 technically sound manner, and that this process is essential in
2 order to be eligible for future federal transit funds; and

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4 WHEREAS, the City completed the study last year in strict
5 accordance with federal requirements and presented its findings
6 to the City Council for their policy decision to select the
7 alternative that would best reduce future traffic congestion
8 while providing the opportunity for improving the quality of
9 life for Oahu residents and visitors; and

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11 WHEREAS, the City Council agreed with the recommendation of
12 Mayor Hannemann's Administration and selected the fixed guideway
13 alternative connecting West Kapolei and the University of Hawaii
14 at Manoa as the best system to address the needs and demands of
15 the growing island population; and

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17 WHEREAS, immediately following the selection of the fixed
18 guideway as the primary mode to serve the entire east-west
19 corridor of the City, the City Council approved a shorter
20 section to be the first phase that is affordable within
21 available funding and reasonably expected federal funds; and

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23 WHEREAS, the Twenty-fourth State Legislature appreciates
24 the work and efforts of the City and County of Honolulu and its
25 Council members in having the foresight and vision to address
26 future traffic problems and improve its citizens' quality of
27 life, however, the Legislature and its members are concerned
28 with the City Council's selection of the Salt Lake alignment
29 over the Pearl Harbor/Airport alignment; and

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31 WHEREAS, the technical analysis clearly indicates that the
32 Pearl Harbor/Airport alignment is superior to the Salt Lake
33 alignment in terms of the coverage of major employment centers,
34 combined number of resident and employment within walking
35 distance of stations, ridership, noise impacts to residents,
36 number of private and federal properties impacted,
37 constructability, and cost effectiveness; now, therefore,

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39 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
40 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
41 Session of 2007, that this body strongly urges the Honolulu City



Council to reconsider the selection of the Salt Lake alignment and to commit to construction of the fixed guideway system along the Airport/Pearl Harbor alignment and strongly urges the city to prioritize the addition of this alignment as studies are completed and funds are available; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu and the Honolulu City Council.

OFFERED BY:

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