

**SB 1626**

## kim2 - Arline

---

**From:** Hannah Miyamoto [hsmiyamoto@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 03, 2009 5:33 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** NO on SB 1626

**LATE**

Hannah Miyamoto  
2424 Maile Way, #247  
Honolulu, HI 96822

Honorable Senators,

I regret that I am unable to deliver my testimony in person because of my teaching responsibilities at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. For your information, I live in Manoa.

I urge you to reject, in whole or in part (see below), Senate Bill 1626, which would immediately transfer up to \$150 million from the funds collected by the state from the citizens of Honolulu to pay for the projected city rail system. This project is almost, to use the popular phrase, "shovel-ready," and my understanding is that bids are already being taken on its construction. Moreover, these funds were originally collected from taxpayers under a clear understanding that they would be spent to build the rail system between 2009 and 2018, and starting this year.

S.B. 1626 jeopardizes federal funding for the rail project, and thereby threatens the entire project, which is vital for the continued growth of the Oahu economy and the state of Hawai'i. Furthermore, immediate construction of the rail line is necessary to keep the Oahu and Hawai'i economies from deteriorating even further, because rail line construction will generate thousands of good-paying jobs for Oahu residents.

In addition, because it appropriates tax revenues that were originally levied by a Honolulu city council that declared these funds would only be used for fixed-guideway transit, and they have been collected with that understanding, S.B. 1626 may be unlawful, as some commentators have suggested. Therefore, even if it was passed, its enforcement might be enjoined by a court. This would obviously threaten both the rail line and all other state spending. Even the normal delay by the court system in answering this legal question might tie up these funds for more than a year. This serves no one.

Of course, these are very difficult times economically, and I am as dismayed as anyone as to the cuts in education, social services, and other vital programs that are envisioned in the governor's budget. However, the rail line must continue, not only because it is necessary to restore mobility in Honolulu, but also to keep thousands of city residents off public assistance and charity caseloads. Already, last year, I know that local construction unions donated food to their unemployed members; the rail project is necessary to keep this problem under control.

Before closing, I ask you to consider the pros and cons of using state bonds to accelerate construction of the rail line, and also initiate planning for extensions to Waikiki, Salt Lake, and Manoa and Kaneohe, Makaha and Ewa Beach, Millilani and Wahiawa, and Hawai'i Kai, in that order. Based on experience in other cities, I think the Kapolei to Ala Moana segment could be completed in five, rather than ten years. For example, the initial 72-mile BART system in the San Francisco Bay area was constructed between 1964 and 1974.

Using state bonds would create those jobs now, while unemployment is rising sharply, instead of later, when we all hope prosperity--as well as higher labor and materials costs, and higher interest rates--return. To achieve this, please consider amending Senate Bill 1626 to protect city rail funds in 2009-2010, and issuing the necessary bonds in 2009 to make sufficient funds available in 2010 and thereafter to finish the line in five years. Finally, conducting initial studies now will help put Honolulu in the running for the further federal transit spending, should that appear in 2010 and thereafter.

Hannah Miyamoto  
mobile: (808) 561-0357  
[hsmiyamoto@msn.com](mailto:hsmiyamoto@msn.com)

March 4, 2009

**LATE**

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair  
Senate Ways and Means Committee  
State Capitol, Room 308  
415 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Kim:

**Subject: Senate Bill No. 1626 SD 1 Relating to Taxation**

**My name is Atilio Leonardi, President of the Kapolei Chamber of Commerce, and I am here to testify in strongly opposition to S.B. No. 1626 SD1.**

The bill proposes to take \$150,000,000 out of the tax collections originally raised for the Honolulu High Capacity Transit project through the half-percent tax surcharge. The bill authorizes the issuance of General Obligation bonds to offset loss of tax revenues to the City and County of Honolulu in fiscal year 2009-2010.

Just like businesses that have to manage its expenses with a shortfall in revenues, we ask the State to develop a budget that is in line with its revenue expectations. We believe that the rail related project will help create jobs and improve the economic activity, as well as provide traffic congestion relief to the businesses and residents of Kapolei. The residents of Honolulu voted in favor of rail, and have been funding the 1/2-percent tax for that specific purpose. To divert the funds at this point is a misuse of appropriated funds and disregard for voter-mandated use of funds.

We ask that you hold this bill and seek other sources of funds or ways to trim the budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our views.

**This testimony is regarding SB 1626. The money is being collected for Honolulu's rail project. It is not for the States general fund. I have been sitting traffic far to long for you to steal from City and County for Honolulu's money.**

**That money is not for any thing but our rail project!**

**If you are looking for more money to help our State's budget, take a page out of Mayor Mufi Hannemann's book. Take a pay cut for all appointed offices and all Elected officials.**

**Rev. Carolyn Martinez Golojuch, MSW**

92-954 Makakilo Dr. #71

Makakilo, HI 96707

808 672-9050

Fax: 808 672-6347

Email: [golojuchc@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:golojuchc@hawaii.rr.com)

**LATE**

**Testimony in Opposition of SB 1626**

Wednesday, March 4, 2009 @ 9:30am

Conference room 211

TO: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair and Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair  
And Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

I strongly urge you to oppose SB 1626: Raiding Rail Funds

After the long and highly contested 2008 campaign regarding Steel on Steel Rail for Oahu, it is most distressing to learn that there are those lawmakers who would even suggest that funds be de-railed to help balance the state budget.

Remember six years ago, the state had a surplus. Now we have a deficit. Don't let our rail funds be stolen to make up for the state's lack of financial expertise. The state needs to learn to live within budgets. The more money that is siphoned away from the funded projects, the more the budget is abused.

Let us remember that the State needs to repay the citizens the \$50 million used for the Honolulu Super Ferry pier that was built without an EIS from money taken from the General Fund. If our rail funds are again siphoned to make up for this example of mismanaged funds, we are condoning unreasonable, unethical behavior.

The lawmakers of Hawaii need to face the dire financial situation that is reality. The first cut to help balance the budget is to forgo the 36% pay raise. Citizens are losing jobs everyday. The City Directors are taking a pay cut in order to save jobs. How can the state lawmakers seriously balance the budget on the back of the taxpayers? Where is good faith in a 36% pay raise? No where.

The national car moguls and the bankers have raided the good faith of the American people. This can't be done here. Hawaii lawmakers need to step up to the plate and save our Rail Fund. I stood out in the dark and cold during the fall of 2008 encouraging voters to approve our rail project. I had to file a HPD complaint when a misinformed citizen verbally and physically harassed me for promoting rail. Now it is too much to think that the Hawaii Lawmakers are going to add insult to my injuries by raiding the Rail Funds. Do the job you were elected to do, think of what is best for us little taxpayers who need all available funds for rail. Thank you for your time to share my concerns about the future of the much needed rail. . Stop this insanity, kill SB1626.

Mahalo,  
Rev. Carolyn Martinez Golojuch, MSW  
Makakilo Resident since 1981

“If more people believed in justice, equality would be reality.” CMG

# LATE



LAND USE RESEARCH  
FOUNDATION OF HAWAII  
700 Bishop Street, Ste. 1928  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Phone 521-4717  
Fax 536-0132



Via Capitol Website

**March 4, 2009**

**Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Hearing Date: Wednesday, March 4, 2009, at 9:30 AM in CR 211**

**Testimony in Opposition to SB 1626. Relating to Taxation  
(Amends county surcharge on state tax – State use of Rail Fund)**

Honorable Chair Donna Mercado Kim, Vice-Chair Shan Tsutsui  
and Senate Ways and Means Committee Members:

My name is Dave Arakawa, and I am the Executive Director of the Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF), a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers and a utility company. One of LURF's missions is to advocate for reasonable, rational and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth and development, while safeguarding Hawai'i's significant natural and cultural resources and public health and safety.

LURF respectfully **opposes SB 1626**, which will amend Section 248-2.6 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes and allow the state to suspend payment to the City and County of Honolulu of the tax collected from the half-percent surcharge designated to pay for the Honolulu Rail Project for fiscal year 2009-2010. This bill also extends the duration of the payment period of the county surcharge on state tax by one year to December 31, 2023.

While we can understand the difficult economic situation of the State government, we must oppose this bill on the basic, sound policy and practice that if government passes a law to impose taxes for a specific purpose (rail transit), and the county has relied on the tax and is prepared to use the funding for a major transit project - - is it not fair or equitable for the State to divert such tax revenue to balance the State's budget, when there may be other alternatives may be available to the State.

**Background of Honolulu Rail Project.** The City Council and Administration of the City and County of Honolulu (City) have initiated a major mass transit project that has the potential to fundamentally reshape the form and character of Honolulu. The

legislature created a half-percent tax surcharge for Oahu to specifically finance the rail project. The Council has selected a fixed guideway system and a Locally Preferred Alternative alignment route for the project. In November 2008, Oahu voters approved the rail project, giving the City the public support to build the rail project. An environmental impact statement has been prepared and appropriate transit oriented development (TOD) land use regulations are being developed for areas along the alignment and around the rapid transit stations. Rapid transit on Oahu will stimulate more compact development around transit stations, thereby reducing urban sprawl. The more intense use of land will produce community benefits, such as affordable housing, open plazas, and parks. The rail project will also contribute to the protection of our environment, by reducing the use of fossil fuels and emissions by automobiles and by promoting clean energy to provide transportation.

**LURF's Position.** LURF is writing **in opposition** to SB 1626 because it is borrowing from a fund that was specifically designated to pay for the transit project. If the state diverts the transit tax funds to the State general fund via SB 1626, it will cause a delay of Honolulu's rail transit project, which will not only increase costs, but could potentially cause Hawaii to miss the opportunity for millions of federal funding dollars for the transit project – which perhaps might kill the project altogether. LURF is opposed to SB 1626 for, among other things, the following reasons:

- **Delays in funding could derail the transit project.** Any delay in the project will likely lead to the project being “derailed!” Our congressional delegation have forewarned state officials that any delay in the rail project – and any effort to tamper with the dedicated funding source will send a negative message to Congress that could put federal funding in jeopardy.
- **The Transit Project will help stimulate the economy and increase State tax revenues.** Due to current economic times, the construction industry is experiencing a slowdown; the transit project is expected to generate an estimated 11,000 jobs over the next eight years. SB 1626 jeopardizes one of the most important public works projects in Hawaii's history and endangers federal funding, as well as the investment of private money in the transit-oriented development projects envisioned around each of the train stations. SB1626 will mean the loss of thousands of jobs and more tax revenue that the city and state governments could use.
- **SB 1626 will postpone Transit Oriented Development and affordable housing.** It is important to note that the rail project will not only create jobs, stimulate the economy and decrease traffic from West Oahu, it will also generate investment of private money into transit oriented development projects around each of the transit stations. TOD will also result in the building of more affordable housing, which can be built around transit stations to ease commutes and encourage a walking community.
- **The rail project protects our environment.** The rail project provides a “sustainable” and “clean energy” transportation alternative to traffic congestion on Oahu and protects our environment, by reducing the use of fossil fuels and auto emissions.

- **Other alternatives to balance the State budget.** We understand that the legislature is facing a very difficult challenge in balancing the State budget; however, we believe that the legislature should strongly support the rail project, as it is one of very few the initiatives which will actually generate more state and county revenue in the coming years. We encourage and support the Legislature's efforts to seek other alternatives for more revenue or reduction of costs.

Based on the above, we respectfully request that **SB 1626 be held** in the Senate Committee on Ways and Means.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our **opposition to SB 1626.**



March 3, 2009

**LATE**

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair  
and Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee  
State Capitol, Room 308  
415 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Kim:

**Subject: Senate Bill No. 1626 SD 1 Relating to Taxation, County Surcharge Tax; Transit Tax**

**I am Mike Golojuch and I am the Makakilo/Kapolei/Honakai Hale Neighborhood Board #34 Vice-Chair, Transportation Chair and the Vice-Chair, Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization Citizens Advisory Committee. I strongly oppose SB 1626 SD1.**

**This is not the time for the State to raid the City and County of Honolulu transit tax. We have worked too hard to finally get to the point that by the end of this year we will be shovel ready. We need to have a strong local funding mechanism to be whole so that the Federal Transportation Administration and Congress realizes that we are moving forward with our rail system.**

**The State may be facing dire economic times but to take funds away from the City and County of Honolulu is not the way to balance the State budget. The proposed bill could cost us jobs and further reduce the State's general excise tax.**

**The State is already getting 10% of the City and County of Honolulu County Surcharge Tax for administration and it has been reported that it cost substantially less than 10% to actually administer the surcharge. This means the City and County of Honolulu is already contributing to the State's budget.**

**Again, this bill needs to be stopped. Thank you for letting me express my views on this bad bill.**

**Sincerely,**

**Mike Golojuch**  
92-954 Makakilo Drive #71  
Kapolei, Hawaii 96707-1340  
672-9050

**kim2 - Arline**

---

**LATE**

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 04, 2009 7:53 AM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Cc:** angelhale@aol.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1626 on 3/4/2009 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 3/4/2009 9:30:00 AM SB1626

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: Yes  
Submitted by: Maeda Timson  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 92-684 Nohona St Kapolei, Hi  
Phone: 6729414  
E-mail: [angelhale@aol.com](mailto:angelhale@aol.com)  
Submitted on: 3/4/2009

Comments:  
I strongly oppose SB 1626

It is totally unbelievable that such a bill exists. This Bill shows that legislators pick and choose when laws and rules apply and disrespects the voters.

It is no secret that the long awaited need, funding and passage of Rail has now become a project filled with legislators personal agendas and political fights, and unfortunately at the cost of the Oahu taxpayers.



**HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION**  
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

**RANDY PERREIRA**  
*Executive Director*  
Tel: 808.543.0011  
Fax: 808.528.0922

**NORA A. NOMURA**  
*Deputy Executive Director*  
Tel: 808.543.0003  
Fax: 808.528.0922

**DEREK M. MIZUNO**  
*Deputy Executive Director*  
Tel: 808.543.0055  
Fax: 808.523.6879

The Twenty-Fifth Legislature, State of Hawaii  
Hawaii State Senate  
Committee on Ways and Means

**LATE**

Testimony by  
Hawaii Government Employees Association  
March 4, 2009

S.B. 1626, (Proposed S.D. 1) –  
RELATING TO TAXATION

The Hawaii Government Employees Association opposes the purpose and intent of S.B. 1626, (proposed S.D. 1). This bill proposes to have the City and County of Honolulu return \$150 million derived from the county surcharge on the state general excise and use taxes to fund the rail transit project. In addition, S.B. 1626, (proposed S.D. 1) calls for repaying the City and County by issuing \$150 million in general obligation bonds and extending the period the surcharge on state general excise and use taxes by two years.

Although this bill attempts to mitigate any detrimental financial effect on the City and County of Honolulu, through floating municipal bonds we believe there are better alternatives for raising needed revenue. For example, we prefer S.B. 1346, S.D. 1, which combines an unspecified increase in the general excise tax with strategically targeted tax relief that will help many taxpayers and make the overall tax system more progressive.

The current budgetary challenges can be better addressed through raising the general excise tax rate, while offsetting this increase by making the State's income tax more progressive and increasing certain tax credits for individuals/families. Careful consideration of budget choices, including tax expenditures, is also warranted.

Some tax increases will be needed to avoid the negative effects of deep budget cuts. While tax increases reduce economic activity, they have a smaller impact on consumption because some of the money paid in taxes might otherwise have been saved rather than spent. Modest tax increases are less harmful to the economy than significant budget reductions.

The answer to solving our budget deficit is a package of thoughtful proposals contained in S.B. 1346, S.D. 1.

Hawaii State Senate, Committee on Ways and Means  
S.B. 1626, (Proposed S.D. 1) – Relating to Taxation  
March 4, 2009  
Page 2

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to S.B. 1626, (proposed S.D. 1.)

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nora A. Nomura". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Nora A. Nomura  
Deputy Executive Director

**BIA-HAWAII**  
BUILDING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

March 4, 2009

**LATE**

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair  
Senate Ways and Means Committee  
State Capitol, Room 308  
415 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Kim:

**Subject: Senate Bill No. 1626 SD 1 Relating to Taxation**

I am Karen Nakamura, Chief Executive Officer of the Building Industry Association of Hawaii (BIA-Hawaii). Chartered in 1955, the Building Industry Association of Hawaii is a professional trade organization affiliated with the National Association of Home Builders, representing the building industry and its associates. BIA-Hawaii takes a leadership role in unifying and promoting the interests of the industry to enhance the quality of life for the people of Hawaii.

BIA-HAWAII is strongly opposed to S.B. No. 1626 SD1 which proposes to "borrow" \$150,000,000 out of one-half percent surcharge on state tax revenues transferred to the City and County of Honolulu, to fund the Honolulu High Capacity Transit project. The bill authorizes the issuance of General Obligation bonds to offset loss of tax revenues to the City and County of Honolulu in fiscal year 2009-2010.

The legislation is based on global economic crisis that is impacting government tax revenues. The legislation fails to recognize that this global economic crisis is impacting everyone, not only government. Businesses are being forced to significantly reduce expenses to meet their projected reductions in revenue. Rather than confront the problems and identify government services that we can afford based on reduced revenue projections, the proposal merely postpones this decision by transferring funds from the City's rapid transit project.

What happens if the revenue short fall extends beyond the two years mentioned in the bill? Will the legislature "borrow" additional funds from the City's rapid transit project or other dedicated funding sources?

The real problem is the need to develop a budget with appropriate level of government services based on the anticipated reduction in state revenues. To do anything less is irresponsible.

We appreciate the opportunity to express our views on this matter.



Chief Executive Officer  
BIA-Hawaii

**Rev. Carolyn Martinez Golojuch, MSW**

92-954 Makakilo Dr. #71

Makakilo, HI 96707

808 672-9050

Fax: 808 672-6347

Email: [golojuchc@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:golojuchc@hawaii.rr.com)

**LATE**

**Testimony in Opposition of SB 1626**

Wednesday, March 4, 2009 @ 9:30am

Conference room 211

TO: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair and Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair  
And Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

I strongly urge you to oppose SB 1626: Raiding Rail Funds

After the long and highly contested 2008 campaign regarding Steel on Steel Rail for Oahu, it is most distressing to learn that there are those lawmakers who would even suggest that funds be de-railed to help balance the state budget.

Remember six years ago, the state had a surplus. Now we have a deficit. Don't let our rail funds be stolen to make up for the state's lack of financial expertise. The state needs to learn to live within budgets. The more money that is siphoned away from the funded projects, the more the budget is abused.

Let us remember that the State needs to repay the citizens the \$50 million used for the Honolulu Super Ferry pier that was built without an EIS from money taken from the General Fund. If our rail funds are again siphoned to make up for this example of mismanaged funds, we are condoning unreasonable, unethical behavior.

The lawmakers of Hawaii need to face the dire financial situation that is reality. The first cut to help balance the budget is to forgo the 36% pay raise. Citizens are losing jobs everyday. The City Directors are taking a pay cut in order to save jobs. How can the state lawmakers seriously balance the budget on the back of the taxpayers? Where is good faith in a 36% pay raise? No where.

The national car moguls and the bankers have raided the good faith of the American people. This can't be done here. Hawaii lawmakers need to step up to the plate and save our Rail Fund. I stood out in the dark and cold during the fall of 2008 encouraging voters to approve our rail project. I had to file a HPD complaint when a misinformed citizen verbally and physically harassed me for promoting rail. Now it is too much to think that the Hawaii Lawmakers are going to add insult to my injuries by raiding the Rail Funds. Do the job you were elected to do, think of what is best for us little taxpayers who need all available funds for rail. Thank you for your time to share my concerns about the future of the much needed rail. . Stop this insanity, kill SB1626.

Mahalo,  
Rev. Carolyn Martinez Golojuch, MSW  
Makakilo Resident since 1981

“If more people believed in justice, equality would be reality.” CMG

# LATE



**The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii**  
*The Voice of Business in Hawaii*

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Wednesday, March 4, 2009  
9:30 AM  
Conference Room 211**

**RE: SENATE BILL NO.1626 SD1 relating to Taxation**

Chair Mercado Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and members of the committee:

My name is Jim Tollefson, President of the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii. The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii works on behalf of its members and the entire business community to:

- Improve the state's economic climate
- Help businesses thrive

The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii is strongly opposed to S.B. No. 1626 SD1 which proposes to "borrow" \$150,000,000 out of one-half percent surcharge on state tax revenues transferred to the City and County of Honolulu, to fund the Honolulu High Capacity Transit project. The bill authorizes the issuance of General Obligation bonds to offset loss of tax revenues to the City and County of Honolulu in fiscal year 2009-2010.

The legislation is based on global economic crisis that is impacting government tax revenues. The legislation fails to recognize that this global economic crisis is impacting everyone, not only government. Businesses are being forced to significantly reduce expenses to meet their projected reductions in revenue. Rather than confront the problems and identify government services that we can afford based on reduced revenue projections, the proposal merely postpones this decision by transferring funds from the City's rapid transit project.

What happens if the revenue short fall extends beyond the two years mentioned in the bill? Will the legislature "borrow" additional funds from the City's rapid transit project or other dedicated funding sources?

The real problem is the need to develop a budget with appropriate level of government services based on the anticipated reduction in state revenues.

We appreciate the opportunity to express our views on this matter.

L-12

March 3, 2009

State Legislature  
Senate Ways and Means Committee  
Senator Donna Mercado Kim

Re: SB 1626 Te Rail transit Fund

Dear Ways and Means Committee:

I oppose SB 1626 and ask that you do the same.

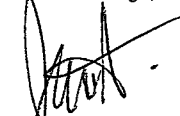
I am a Kapolei carpenter. Like my fellow workers, we just want to put food on our tables and roofs over our heads. I am proud of the work we do and our contribution to stimulate our economy.

We support rail as well as all good development in Kapolei and the City and County of Honolulu. We deserve all the benefits that everyone else gets on this island which makes better and more transportation options for the West Side our top priority. We too pay taxes and Kapolei brings great amounts of money from its projects to benefit everyone in the State.

We were told that the all Oahu residents must vote for or against rail. The public has spoken; WE WANT RAIL. Please do not make us lose trust in you, and stay away from raiding or borrowing the rail funds.

Vote NO to SB 1626.

Sincerely,



James Arthur  
92-655 Nohona St.  
Kapolei, Hawaii 96707



**LATE**

March 3, 2009

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair  
Senator Shan Tsutsui, Vice Chair  
Senate Ways and Means Committee

Re: SB 1626 "Raiding" the Rail transit Fund

Dear Chair Mercado-Kim and Committee Members:

I oppose SB 1626 and urge you to do the same..

My wife and I ride the bus everyday to and from work. We see the horrible congestion and am never sure what the traffice will be for the day, that is why we wake up at 4:45 am to catch The Bus at 5:55. In the afternoons we catch The Bus at 5:15pm and get home about 6:45pm. It is a very very long day for us.

When heard Rail was coming, we were excited, advocated for it and followed the necessary process to see it happen. Now to hear that you will be raiding our rail fund is so disappointing. How can you take our rail money because you cannot balance your budget. It is not pono.

We need the rail project to start immediately and it will not happen if you use our rail money.

Please vote NO to SB1626.

Mel Uesato



91-211 Hoanaulu Pl.  
Kapolei, Hawaii 96707

LATE

March 3, 2009

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair  
Senator Shan Tsutsui, Vice Chair  
Senate Ways and Means Committee

Re: SB 1626 "Raiding" the Rail transit Fund

Dear Chair Mercado-Kim and Committee Members:

I STRONGLY oppose SB 1626.

I do not believe that you have the right to take or borrow any funds that do not belong to you.

We have waiting so long for help to improve our transportation. The people voted, the money is collected to start the project and now you want to use these City funds?

I also have 4 adult children and 2 grand children who I want to stay in Hawaii. Unless they have better job opportunities, they will leave. This will break my heart. **It is proven that the rail project will bring us thousands of jobs.**

We need rail and need the project to start immediately for transportation improvements and to keep our families together.

Vote NO to SB1626, you know it is the right thing to do.

Georgie Pascua



91-1093 Hanaloa St.  
Ewa Beach, Hawaii 96706

LATE

March 3, 2009

*Senate Ways and Means Committee  
Senator Donna Mercado Kim*

*Re: SB 1626 Borrowing from the Rail transit Fund*

*Dear Chair Mercado-Kim and Committee Members:*

*I oppose SB 1626 and cannot understand why this Bill exists...*

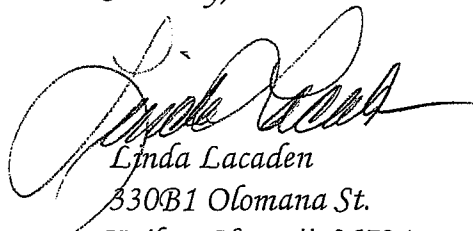
*I am sure you hear the same economic news as we all do... The economy is diving; we, our friends, and families are losing their jobs. It is getting difficult every day to just put food on our tables and a roof over our head. If we are to stimulate the economy we need jobs, jobs, jobs.*

*Further, we must give the West Side people the same transportation benefits we have. After all, they too pay taxes and the Kapolei area development stimulates our economy every day by all of their on-going projects.*

*Every day as I drive into town from Kailua, I hear how it takes the West Side people double the time to come to work. This is not right. I too voted with them on rail, the rules should not be changed today for any reason... a deal's a deal and this rail fund is for that only... RAIL.*

*Vote NO to SB 1626.*

*Sincerely,*

  
*Lynda Lacaden  
330B1 Olomana St.  
Kailua, Hawaii 96734*

March 4, 2009

**LATE**

SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE  
SB 1626 RAIDING OUR RAIL FUNDS  
MARCH 4, 2009  
CONFERENCE ROOM 211 - STATE CAPITOL

Chair Mercado-Kim and Committee Members:

I strongly oppose SB 1626.

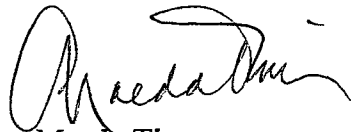
It is totally unbelievable that such a Bill exist. This Bill shows that legislators pick and choose when laws and rules apply and disrespects the voters.

It is no secret that the long awaited need, funding and passage of Rail has now become a project filled with legislators personal agendas and political fights, and unfortunately at the cost of the Oahu taxpayers.

You know how important the rail project is for the traffic relief on Oahu, the financial impact on our economy, the positive pending support for additional money from the Feds, how the people voted for rail, a fund created for its financial support by the County of Oahu and how wrong raiding the rail fund is. So, why do you propose such a Bill? Why does the law apply when you choose? I can't answer that, but I do know it exhibits the lack and disrespect of the people, the ones who put you in office and removes you as well.

I ask that you do the business of the people and not the monkey business of the legislators.

Do the right thing, oppose SB 1626.



Maeda Timson  
92-684 Nohona St.  
Kapolei, Hi. 96707

# LATE

Testimony Opposing  
Senate Bill 1626 S.D. 1

A Bill for an Act. Relating to Taxation.

I am in opposition to Senate Bill 1626 S.D. 1 and ask that you hear my plea. I cannot understand why these appropriated funds must be raided. We cannot jeopardize the funding for this project which will bring hundreds of jobs in the much-needed construction industry.

The request for proposal went out to bid as a design-build contract. The bid date is set for March 13, 2009.

Please do not pass this bill.

Sincerely,

Georgette Stevens  
P O Box 75414  
Kapolei, HI 96707  
Georgette.stevens@gmail.com  
306-7992